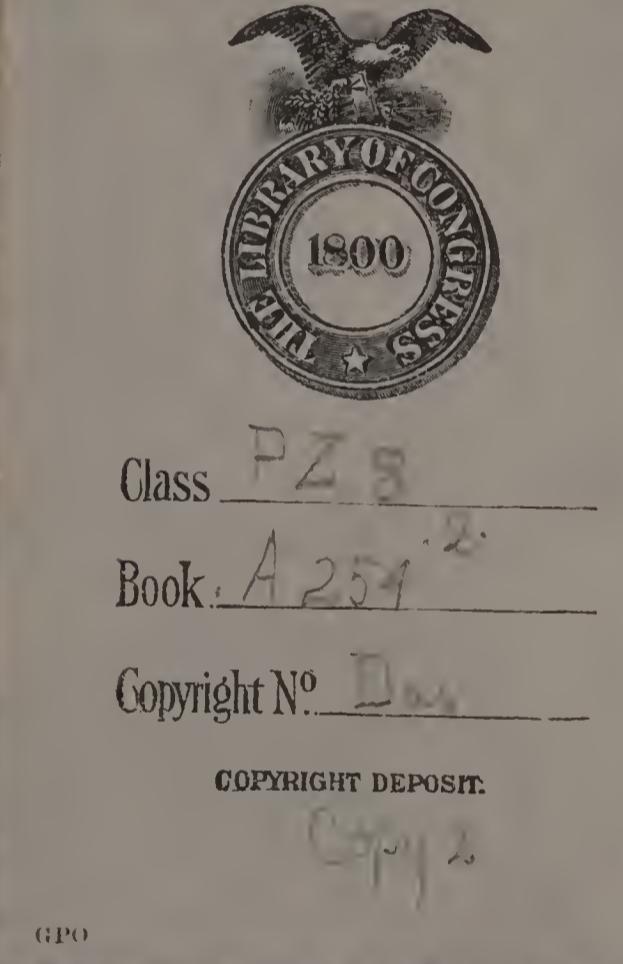




DASH





DASH





## FABLES OF AESOP



FROM BOOK OF MAXIMS

THE WISE MAN KNOWS HE KNOWS NOTHING  
BUT THE FOOL THINKS HE KNOWS IT ALL







*Illness of the Lion was only a sham.  
(From Story "The Fox and Sick Lion")*

2. 2. 2.

THE  
FABLES OF AESOP  
Text Based  
upon  
La Fontaine..... and ..... CROXALL



ILLUSTRATED BY  
JOSEPH and EUGENE DASH

WORLD-WIDE EDITION OF A  
JUST RIGHT BOOK

ALBERT WHITMAN & CO  
PUBLISHERS, CHICAGO, — U. S. A.

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the Moon  
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## SPECIAL NOTE

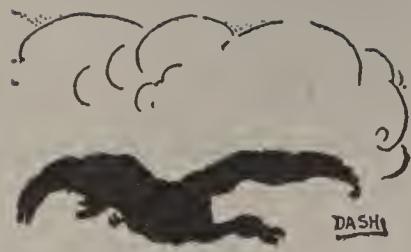
This new picture edition of Aesop's Fables, with the text matter based upon the version of Croxall and Le Fontaine, has been compiled with judicious care, selecting and rearranging each fable with the thought of holding the child mind with interest by appealing and instructive language.

Combined with this simple style of relation, the book contains over seventy colored illustrations by Joseph E. Dash, a student and lover of animals. Mr. Dash possesses a technique very original in the depiction of animal actions. He has made each picture incorporate the text of the fable very realistically.





*In Appreciation: This book is dedicated to Alice M. Dempsey  
who gave the greater thought to create this picture edition.*



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*The Hare was soon so far ahead.*

# THE FABLES OF AESOP



## The Hare and the Tortoise

**A**HARE was one day making fun of a Tortoise for being so slow upon his feet. “Wait a bit,” said the Tortoise; “I’ll run a race with you, and I’ll wager that I win.” “Oh, well,” replied the Hare, who was much amused at the idea, “let’s try and see”; and it

was soon agreed that the Fox should set a course for them, and be the judge. When the time came, both started off together; but the Hare was soon so far ahead that he thought he might as well have a rest, so down he lay and fell fast asleep. Meanwhile the Tortoise kept plodding on, and in time reached the goal. At last the Hare woke up with a start, and dashed on at his fastest, but only to find that the Tortoise had already won the race.

*“Slow and steady wins the race.”*



## The Lion and the Mouse



**L**IION, tired with the chase, lay sleeping at full length under a shady tree. Some Mice, scrambling over him while he slept, awoke him. Laying his paw upon one of them, he was about to crush him, but the Mouse implored his mercy in such moving terms that he let him go. Some time after the Lion was caught in a net laid by some hunters, and, unable to free himself, made the forest resound with his roars. The Mouse whose life had been spared came, and with his little sharp teeth gnawed the ropes asunder and set the Lion free.

*“Little friends may prove great friends.”*



*Found there an egg all yellow and glittering.*

## The Goose With the Golden Eggs

**O**NE day a countryman going to the nest of his Goose found there an egg all yellow and glittering. When he took it up it was as heavy as lead and he was going to throw it away, because he thought a trick had been played upon him. But he took it home on second thought, and soon found to his delight that it was an egg of pure gold. Every morning the same thing occurred, and he soon became rich by selling his eggs. As he grew rich he grew greedy; and thinking to get at once all the gold the Goose could give, he killed it and opened it only to find — nothing.

*“Greed often makes one poorer.”*



## The Two Pots



TWO Pots had been left on the bank of the river, one of brass, and one of earthenware. When the tide rose they both floated off down the stream. Now, the earthenware pot tried its best to keep away from the brass one, which called out: "Fear nothing, friend; I will not strike you."

"But I may come in contact with you," said the other, "if I come too close; and whether I hit you, or you hit me, I shall suffer for it."

*"Be careful of the company you keep."*



*Tried its best to keep away from the brass one.*

## The Fox and the Crow



**A** FOX once saw a Crow fly off with a piece of cheese in its beak, and settle on a branch of a tree. "That's for me, as I am a Fox," said Master Renard, and he walked up to the foot of the tree. "Good - day, Mistress Crow," he cried. "How well you are looking to-day; how glossy your feathers; how bright your eye. I feel sure your voice must surpass that of other birds, just as your figure does; let me hear but one song from you that I may greet you as the Queen of Birds." The Crow lifted up her head and began to caw her best, but the moment she opened her mouth the piece of cheese fell to the ground, only



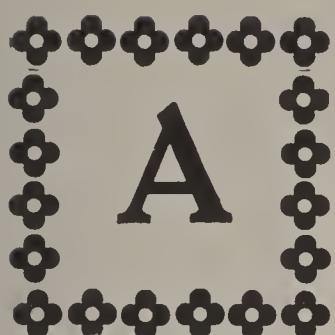
*"Good-day, Mistress Crow."*

to be snapped up by Master Fox. "That will do," said he. "That was all I wanted. In exchange for your cheese I will give you a piece of advice for the future: Do not trust flatterers."

*"The flatterer doth rob by stealth,  
His victim, both of wit and wealth."*



## Jupiter and the Ass



CERTAIN Ass, that belonged to a gardener, was weary of carrying heavy burdens, and prayed to Jupiter to give him a new master. Jupiter granted his prayer, and gave him for a master a tile-maker, who made him carry heavier burdens than before. Again he came to Jupiter, and besought him to grant him a milder master, or at any rate a different one. The god, laughing at his folly, thereupon made him over to a tanner. The Ass was worked harder than ever, and soon upbraided himself for his stupidity. "Now," said he, "I have a master who not only beats me living, but who will not spare my hide even when I am dead."

*"Contentment is the first law of happiness."*

## The Hawk and the Nightingale



NIGHTINGALE once fell into the clutches of a hungry Hawk who had been all day on the lookout for food. "Pray let me go," said the Nightingale; "I am such a mite for a stomach like yours. I sing so nicely too. Do let me go, it will do you good to hear me." "Much good it will do to an empty belly," replied the Hawk; "and besides, a little bird that I have is more to me than a great one that has yet to be caught."

*"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."*



## The Traveler and His Dog



A

TRAVELER, about to set out on his journey, saw his Dog stand at the door stretching himself. He asked him sharply, "What do you stand gaping there for? Everything is ready but you; so come with me instantly." The Dog, wagging his tail, replied: "Oh, master, I am quite ready! It is you for whom I am waiting."

*"The loiterer often imputes delay to his more active friend."*



*And sat securely among the branches.*

## The Cat and the Fox

HE Cat and the Fox were once talking together in the middle of a forest. "Let things be ever so bad," said Reynard, "I don't care; I have a hundred shifts if one should fail." "I," said the Cat, "have but one; if that fails me I am undone." Just then a pack of Hounds burst into view. The cat flew up a tree, and sat securely among the branches, and thence saw the Fox, after trying his hundred shifts in vain, overtaken by the Dogs and torn in pieces. Miss Puss, who had been looking on, said:

*"Better one safe way than a hundred on which you cannot depend."*

## The Dove and the Ant



**A** N Ant, going to the river to drink, fell in, and was carried along in the stream. A Dove pitied her condition, and threw into the river a small bough, by means of which the Ant gained the shore. The Ant afterward, seeing a man with a fowling-piece aimed at the Dove, stung him in the foot sharply, and made him miss his aim, and so saved the Dove's life.

*"One good turn deserves another."*

## The Fox and the Mask



FOX was one day rummaging in  
the house of an actor, and came  
across a very beautiful Mask. Put-  
ting his paw on the forehead, he  
said: "What a handsome face we have here!  
Pity it is it should want brains."

*"Outside show is a poor substitute for inner worth."*

## The Wood and the Clown

A CLOWN entered a Wood and looked about him as though he were in search of something. The Trees, moved by curiosity, asked him what it was he wanted. He answered that all he wanted was a piece of good, tough ash for a handle to his ax. The Trees agreed that if that was all, he should have it. When, however, he had got it, and fitted it to his ax, he laid about him unsparingly, and the giants of the forest fell under his strokes. The Oak is said to have spoken thus to the Beech, in a low whisper:

*"To give well one must give wisely."*



*Tough ash, for a handle to his ax.*

## The Travelers and the Bear

**T**WO men were traveling through a wood, when a Bear rushed out upon them. One of the travelers happened to be in front, and he seized hold of the branch of a tree, and hid himself among the leaves. The other, seeing no help for it, threw himself flat down upon the ground, with his face in the dust. The Bear, coming up to him, put his muzzle close to his ear, and sniffed and sniffed. But at last with a growl he shook his head and slouched off, for bears will not touch dead meat. Then the man in the tree came down to his comrade, and, laughing, said: "What was it that Master Bruin whispered to you?"

"He told me," said the other,

*"Never trust a friend who deserts you in time of need."*



"What was it that Master Bruin whispered to you?"

## The Lion and the Four Oxen

FOUR Oxen were such great friends that they used always when feeding to keep together. A Lion watched them for many days with longing eyes, but never being able to find one apart from the rest, was afraid to attack them. Whenever he came near they turned their tails to one another so that whichever way he approached them he was met by the horns of one of them. He at length succeeded in awakening a jealousy among them, which ripened into a mutual aversion, and they strayed off at a considerable distance from each other. The Lion then fell upon them singly, and killed them all.

*"United we stand, divided we fall."*

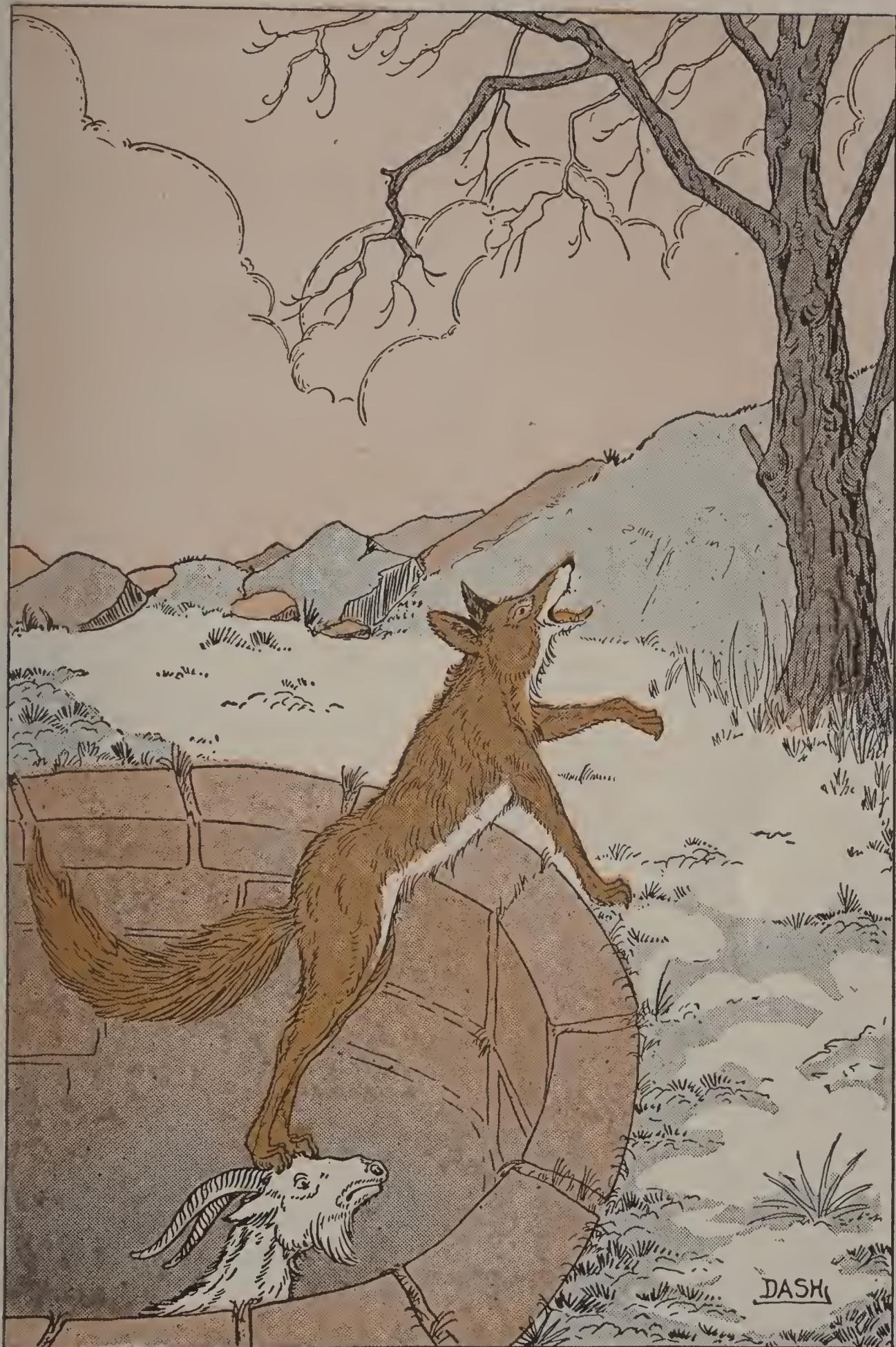


*The Lion watched them for many days.*

## The Fox and the Goat



FOX and a Goat once journeyed together. The Goat was a simple creature, seldom seeing beyond his own nose; while the Fox, like most of his kind, was a master of knavery. They were led by thirst to descend a deep well, and when they had both drunk freely, the Fox said, "Now, Master Goat, what shall we do? Drinking is all very well, but it won't get us out from here. You had better rear up against the wall; then, by the aid of your horns, I can get out, and once out, of course I can help you." "By my beard," said the Goat, "that's a good plan. I should never have thought of that. How I wish I had your brains, to be



*"Of course, I can help you."*

sure!" The Fox, having got out in the way described, began to rail at his companion. "Make the most of your patience, old fellow," said he, "for you'll need it all. If you had half as much brains as beard, you would never have gone down there. I am sorry that I can't stay longer with you, but I have some business that must be seen to. So, good-by."

*"Look before you leap."*



## The Bald Man and the Fly



**T**HERE was once a Bald Man who sat down after work on a hot summer's day. A Fly came up and kept buzzing about his bald pate, and stinging him from time to time. The Man aimed a blow at his little enemy, but—whack!—his hand came on his head instead; again the Fly tormented him, but this time the Man was wiser and said:

*"You will only injure yourself if you take notice of despicable enemies."*

## The Crow and the Pitcher



CROW, half-dead with thirst, came upon a Pitcher which had once been full of water; but when the Crow put its beak into the mouth of the Pitcher he found that only very little water was left in it, and that he could not reach far enough down to get it. He tried, and he tried, but at last had to give up in despair. Then a thought came to him, and he took a pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took

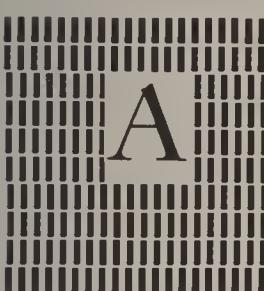


*At last he saw the water mount up near him.*

another pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. At last, he saw the water mount up near him; and after casting in a few more pebbles he was able to quench his thirst and save his life.

*"Little by little does the trick."*

## The Brother and Sister



A

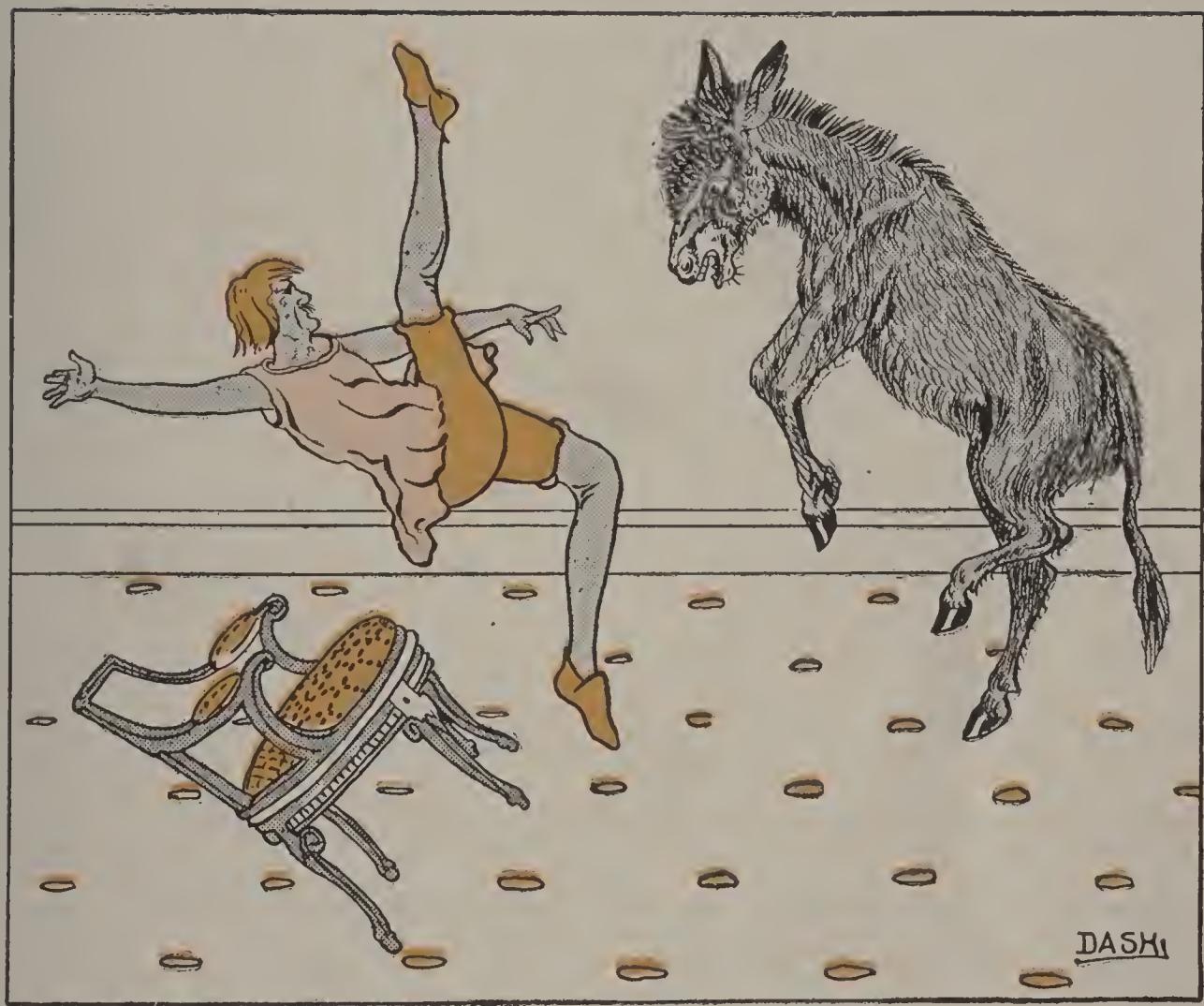
CERTAIN man had two children, a boy and a girl. The lad was a handsome young fellow enough, but the girl was as plain as a girl can well be.

The latter, provoked beyond endurance by the way in which her brother looked in the glass and made remarks to her disadvantage, went to her father and complained of it. The father drew his children to him very tenderly, and said: "My dears, I wish you both to look in the glass every day. You, my son, that, seeing your face is handsome, you may take care not to spoil it by ill-temper and bad behavior; and you, my daughter, that you may be encouraged to make up for your want of beauty by the sweetness of your manners and the grace of your conversation."

*"Handsome is as handsome does."*

## The Donkey and the Lap-Dog

HERE was once a man who had a Donkey and a Lap-Dog. The Donkey was housed in the stable with plenty of oats and hay to eat and was as well off as a Donkey could be. The Lap-Dog was made a great pet of by his master, who fondled him and often let him lie in his lap; and if he went out to dinner, he would bring back a tid-bit or two to give him when he ran to meet him on his return. The Donkey had, it is true, a good deal of work to do, carting or grinding the corn, or carrying the burdens of the farm; and ere long he became very jealous, contrasting his own life of labor with the ease and idleness of the little Dog. At last one day he



*'At last one day.*

broke his halter, and frisking into the house just as his master sat down to dinner, he pranced and capered about, mimicking the frolics of the little favorite, upsetting the table and smashing the crockery with his clumsy efforts. Not content with that, he even tried to jump on his master's lap, as he had so often seen the Dog allowed to do. At that the servants, seeing the danger their master was in, belabored the silly Donkey with sticks and cudgels, and drove him back to his stable half dead with his beating. "Alas!" he cried, "all this I have brought on myself. Why could I not be satisfied with my natural and honorable position, without wishing to imitate the ridiculous antics of that useless little Lap-Dog?"

*"Be content with your lot."*

## The Fisherman and Troubled Water

A CERTAIN Fisherman, having laid his nets in a river, took a long pole and fell a-beating the water, to frighten the fish into his nets. One of the people who lived thereabout came and said to him, with surprise, "Why, what are you doing there, splashing and dashing the water about at that rate? You muddle the stream, and completely spoil our drink." "Well," replied the Fisherman, "all I know is, I must either spoil your drink or have nothing to eat."

*"It was a poor rule that does not work both ways"*

## The Eagle and the Arrow



**A**N Archer once feathered an Arrow with a feather that had fallen from an eagle's wing. It shortly afterward happened that with this Arrow he shot the very Eagle that had cast the feather. In her mortal agony the Eagle recognized her property, and exclaimed: "Bitter is it to die, but doubly bitter to find that I have helped to speed the means of death."

*"We often give our enemies the means for our own destruction."*



*In her mortal agony the Eagle recognized.*

## The Ant and the Grasshopper

IN a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant. "and recommend you to do the same."

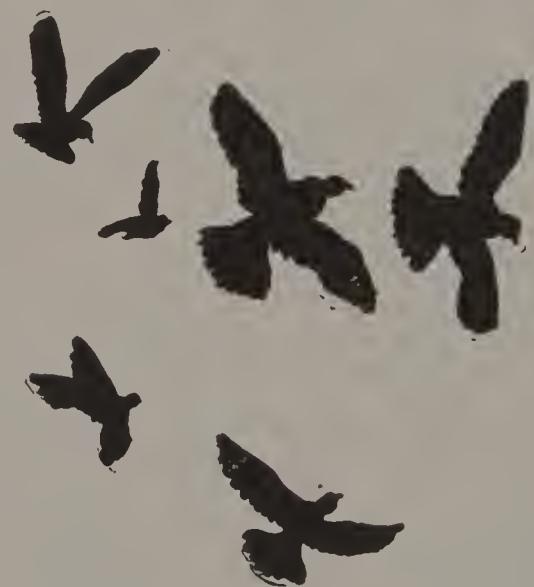
"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; "we have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its



"Why not come and chat with me?"

toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food, and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the Ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew

*It is best to prepare for the days of necessity."*



## The Vain Jackdaw



JUPITER announced that he intended to appoint a king over the Birds, and named a day on which they were to appear before his throne, when he would select the most beautiful of them all to be their ruler. Wishing to look their best on the occasion, they repaired to the banks of a stream, where they busied themselves in washing and preening their feathers. The Jackdaw was there along with the rest, and realized that, with his ugly plumage, he would have no chance of being chosen as he was; so he waited till they were all gone, and then picked up the most gaudy of the feathers they had dropped, and fastened them about his own body,

with the result that he looked gayer than any of them. When the appointed day came, the birds assembled before Jupiter's throne; and, after passing them in review, he was about to make the Jackdaw king, when all the rest set upon the king-elect, stripped him of his borrowed plumes, and exposed him for the Jackdaw that he was.

*"Borrow not to fool others."*



## The Wolf, the Fox and the Ape



THE Wolf charged the Fox, before the Ape as judge, with having stolen some meat which he had put by. The case was long and angrily contested, and the Ape, having heard all that was to be said on both sides, announced his decision as follows: "You, Master Wolf, in spite of your complaints, do not appear to me to have had anything to lose; but I am forced to admit that you, Master Fox, have certainly stolen what is laid to your charge."

*"It is hard for a Rogue to establish his innocence at any time."*

## The Horse and the Stag

HERE was once a Horse who used to graze in a meadow which he had all to himself. But one day a Stag came into the meadow, and said he had as good a right to feed there as the Horse, and moreover chose all the best places for himself. The Horse, wishing to be revenged upon his unwelcome visitor, went to a man and asked if he would help him to turn out the Stag. "Yes," said the man, "I will by all means; but I can only do so if you will let me put a bridle in your mouth and mount on your back." The Horse agreed to this, and the two together very soon turned the Stag out of the pasture; but when that was done, the Horse found to his dismay that in the man he had got a master for good.

*"Selfishness brings its own pains."*



*Which he had all to himself.*

## The Lark and Her Young Ones

A LARK, who had Young Ones in a field of corn which was almost ripe, was afraid lest the reapers should come before her young brood were fledged. Every day, therefore, when she flew away to look for food, she charged them to take notice of what they heard in her absence, and to tell her of it when she returned. One day when she was gone they heard the master of the field say to his son that the corn seemed ripe enough to be cut, and tell him to go early tomorrow and desire their friends and neighbors to come and help to reap it. When the Old Lark came home, the Little Ones fell quivering and chirping around her, and told her what had hap-



*When the old Lark came home.*

pened, begging her to remove them as fast as she could. The mother bade them to be easy, "For," said she, "if he depends upon his friends and his neighbors, I am sure the corn will not be reaped to-morrow." Next day she went out again, and left the same orders as before. The owner came, and waited. The sun grew hot, but nothing was done, for not a soul came. "You see," said he to his son, "these friends of ours are not to be depended upon, so run off at once to your uncles and cousins, and say I wish them to come betimes to-morrow morning and help us to reap." This the Young Ones, in a great fright, reported also to their mother. "Do not be frightened, children," said she; "kindred and relations are not always very forward in helping one another; but keep your ears open, and let me know what you hear to-morrow." The owner came the next day, and, finding his relations as backward as his neighbors, said to his son, "Now, George, listen to me. Get a couple of good

sickles ready against to-morrow morning, for it seems we must reap the corn by ourselves." The Young Ones told this to their mother. "Then, my dears," said she, "it is time for us to go indeed, for when a man undertakes to do his business himself, it is not so likely that he will be disappointed." She removed her Young Ones immediately, and the corn was reaped the next day by the old man and his son.

*"Self help is usually the best help."*

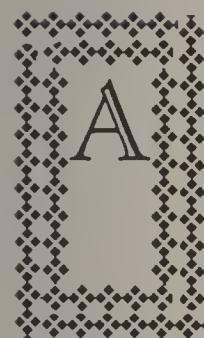


## The Crow and Mercury

○○○○○○○  
○ A ○  
○○○○○○○ CROW caught in a snare prayed  
to Apollo to release him, making  
a vow to offer some frankincense  
at his shrine. Being rescued from  
his danger, he forgot his promise. Shortly after-  
ward, on being again caught in a second snare,  
passing by Apollo he made the same promise to  
offer frankincense to Mercury, when he appeared,  
and said to him: “Oh, thou most base fellow;  
how can I believe thee, who hast disowned and  
wronged thy former patron?”

*“False promises bring their own punishment.”*

## The Silkworm and the Spider

 SILKWORM was one day working at her shroud; the Spider, her neighbor, weaving her web with the greatest swiftness, looked down with insolent contempt on the slow, although beautiful, labors of the Silkworm. “What do you think of my web, my lady?” she cried; “see how large it is, and I began it only this morning, and here it is half finished, and is very fine and transparent. See and acknowledge that I work much quicker than you.” “Yes,” said the Silkworm, “but your labors, which at first are designed only as base traps to ensnare the harmless, are destroyed as soon as they are seen, and swept away as worse than useless dirt; while mine are preserved with the greatest care, and in time become ornaments for princes.”

*“Time well spent is not wasted.”*

## The Cock and the Fox

**A** COCK, perched among the branches of a lofty tree, crowed aloud. The shrillness of his voice echoed through the wood, and the well-known note brought a Fox, who was prowling in quest of prey, to the spot. Reynard, seeing the Cock was at a great height, set his wits to work to find some way of bringing him down. He saluted the bird in his mildest voice, and said: “Have you not heard, cousin, of the proclamation of universal peace and harmony among all kinds of beasts and birds? We are no longer to prey upon and devour one another, but love and friendship are to be the order of the day. Do come down, and we will talk over this great news at our leisure.” The Cock, who knew



*The Fox made off and tried his luck elsewhere.*

that the Fox was only at his old tricks, pretended to be watching something in the distance, and the Fox asked him what it was he looked at so earnestly. “Why,” said the Cock, “I think I see a pack of Hounds yonder.” “Oh, then,” said the Fox, “your humble servant, I must be gone.” “Nay, cousin,” said the Cock, “pray do not go; I am just coming down. You are surely not afraid of Dogs in these peaceable times!” “No, no,” said the Fox; “but it is ten to one whether they have heard of the proclamation yet.”

*“Cunning often outwits itself.”*

## The Sick Stag

A STAG, whose joints had become stiff with old age, was at great pains to get together a large heap of fodder—enough, as he thought, to last him for the remainder of his days. He stretched himself out upon it, and, now dozing, now nibbling, made up his mind to wait quietly for the end. He had always been of a gay and lively turn, and had made in his time many friends. These now came in great numbers to see him and wish him farewell. While engaged in friendly talk over past adventures and old times, what more natural than that they should help themselves to a little of the food which seemed so plentifully stored around? The end of the matter was that the poor Stag died not so much of sickness or of old age as for sheer want of the food which his friends had eaten for him.

*"It is easy to judge your true friends by the amount of care they exercise for your welfare."*

## The Eagle and the Beetle

THE Eagle and the Beetle were at enmity together, and they destroyed one another's nests. The Eagle gave the first provocation in seizing upon and in eating the young ones of the Beetle. The Beetle got by stealth at the Eagle's eggs, and rolled them out of the nest, and followed the Eagle even into the presence of Jupiter. On the Eagle making his complaint, Jupiter ordered him to make his nest in his lap; and while Jupiter had the eggs in his lap, the Beetle came flying about him, and Jupiter, rising up unawares to drive him away from his head, threw down the eggs, and broke them.

*"The weak often revenge themselves on those who use them ill,  
even though they be the more powerful."*



*And rolled them out of the nest.*

## The Ass, the Dog and the Wolf



A

LADEN Ass was jogging along, followed by his tired Master, at whose heels came a hungry Dog. Their path lay across a meadow, and the man stretched himself out on the turf and went to sleep. The Ass fed on the pasture, and was in no hurry at all to move. The Dog alone, being gnawed by the pains of hunger, found the time pass heavily. "Pray, dear companion," he said to the Ass, "stoop, that I may take my dinner from the pannier." The Ass



*The Ass turned a deaf ear.*

turned a deaf ear, and went on cropping away the green and tender grass. The Dog persisted, and at last the Ass replied, "Wait, can't you, till our Master wakes. He will give you your usual portion, without fail." Just then a famished Wolf appeared upon the scene, and sprang at the throat of the Ass. "Help, help, dear Towser!" cried the Ass; but the dog would not budge. "Wait till our Master wakes," said he; "he will come to your help without fail." The words were no sooner spoken than the Ass lay strangled upon the sod.

*"Not to help others has no rewards."*



## The Thrush and the Swallow

**A** YOUNG Thrush, who lived in an orchard, once became acquainted with a Swallow. A friendship sprang up between them, and the Swallow, after skimming the orchard and the neighboring meadow, would every now and then come and visit the Thrush. The Thrush, hopping from branch to branch, would welcome him with his most cheerful note. "Oh, mother!" said he to his parent one day, "never had creature such a friend as I have in this same Swallow." "Nor ever any mother," replied the parent bird, "such a silly son as I have in this same Thrush. Long before the approach of winter your friend will have left you, and while you sit shivering on a leafless bough, he will be sporting under sunny skies hundreds of miles away."

*"Do not take fair weather friendships seriously."*



## The Wind and the Sun

**A**DISPUTE once arose between the North Wind and the Sun as to which was the stronger of the two. Seeing a traveler on his way, they agreed to try which could the sooner get his cloak off him. The North Wind began, and sent a furious blast, which, at the onset, nearly tore the cloak from its fastenings; but the traveler, seizing the garment with a firm grip, held it around his body so tightly that Boreas spent his remaining force in vain. The Sun, dispelling the clouds that had gathered, then darted his most sultry beams on the traveler's head. Growing faint with the heat, the man flung off his cloak and ran for protection to the nearest shade.

*"Kindness effects more than severity."*



*Ran for protection to the nearest shade.*

## The Spaniel and the Mastiff



GOOD-NATURED Spaniel overtook a surly Mastiff as he was traveling upon the highroad. Tray, although an entire stranger to Tiger, very civilly accosted him; and if it would be no intrusion, he said, he should be glad to bear him company on his way. Tiger, who happened not to be in so growling a mood as usual, accepted the proposal, and they very amicably pursued their journey together. In the midst of their conversation



*He should be glad to bear him company.*

they arrived at the next village, where Tiger began to display his evil disposition by an unprovoked attack upon every dog he met. The villagers immediately sallied forth with great wrath to rescue their respective favorites; and, falling upon our two friends without distinction or mercy, poor Tray was most cruelly treated, for no other reason but his being found in bad company. Hasty and inconsiderate connections are generally attended with great disadvantages; and much of every man's good or ill fortune depends upon the choice he makes of his friends.

*"Choose your friends well."*



## The Dog in the Manger



A DOG was lying in a Manger full of hay. An Ox, being hungry, came near and was going to eat of the hay. The Dog, getting up and snarling at him, would not let him touch it. "Surly creature," said the Ox, "you cannot eat the hay yourself, and yet you will let no one else have any."

*"People often grudge others what they cannot  
enjoy themselves."*



*She fell to the ground.*

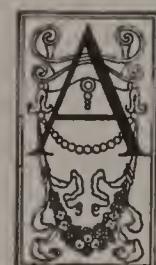
## The Thirsty Pigeon



PIGEON oppressed by excessive thirst saw a goblet of water painted on a sign-board. Not supposing it to be only a picture, she flew toward it with a loud whirr, and unwittingly dashed against the signboard and jarred herself terribly. Having broken her wings by the blow, she fell to the ground, and was caught by one of the bystanders.

*"Zeal should not outrun discretion."*

## The Fox and the Countryman



FOX, having been hunted hard and chased a long way, saw a Countryman at work in a wood, and begged him to help him to some hiding-place. The man said he might go into his cottage, which was close by. He was no sooner in than the huntsmen came up. "Have you seen a Fox pass this way?" said they. The Countryman said "No," but pointed at the same time toward the place



*And begged him to help him to some hiding place.*

where the Fox lay. The huntsmen did not take the hint, however, and made off again at full speed. The Fox, who had seen all that took place through a chink in the wall, thereupon came out, and was walking away without a word. “Why, how now!” said the man; “haven’t you the manners to thank your host before you go?” “Yes, yes,” said the Fox; “if you had been as honest with your finger as you were with your tongue, I shouldn’t have gone without saying good-by.”

*“Actions speak louder than words.”*



## The Spendthrift and Swallow



PRODIGAL young fellow, who had run through all his money, and even sold all his outer clothes except his cloak, seeing a Swallow skimming over the meadows one fine day in the early spring, believed that summer was really come, and sold his cloak, too. The next morning there happened to be a severe frost; and, shivering and nearly frozen himself, he found the Swallow lying stiff and dead upon the ground. He thereupon upbraided the poor bird as the cause of all his misfortunes. "Stupid thing," said he, "had you not come before your time, I should not now be so wretched as I am."

*"One Swallow does not make a summer."*

## The Hunter, the Fox, and the Tiger

A CERTAIN Hunter saw in the middle of a field a Fox, whose skin was so beautiful that he wished to take him alive. Having this in view, he found out his hole, and just before the entrance to it he dug a large and deep pit, covered it with slender twigs and straw, and placed a piece of horseflesh on the middle of the covering. When he had done this he went and hid himself in a corner out of sight, and the Fox, returning to his hole and smelling the flesh, ran up to see what dainty morsel it was. When he came to the pit he would fain have tasted the meat, but fearing some trick he refrained from doing so, and retreated into his hole.



*Sprang in haste to seize it.*

Presently up came a hungry Tiger, who, being tempted by the smell and appearance of the horseflesh, sprang in haste to seize it, and tumbled into the pit. The Hunter, hearing the noise made by the Tiger in falling, ran up and jumped into the pit without looking into it, never doubting that it was the Fox that had fallen in. But there, to his surprise, he found the Tiger, which quickly tore him in pieces and devoured him.

*"Do not always take things for granted."*



## The Hen and the Fox

A FOX, having crept into an outhouse, looked up and down for something to eat, and at last spied a Hen sitting upon a perch so high that he could by no means come at her. He therefore had recourse to an old stratagem. "Dear cousin," said he to her, "how do you do? I heard that you were ill and kept at home; I could not rest, therefore, till I had come to see you. Pray let me feel your pulse. Indeed, you do not look well at all." He was running on in this impudent manner, when the Hen answered him from the roost: "Truly, dear Reynard, you are in the right. I was seldom in more danger than I am now. Pray excuse my coming down; I am sure I should catch my death." The Fox, finding himself foiled, made off and tried his luck elsewhere.

*"Those who will not listen to flatterers will have a safer life."*

## The Angler and the Little Fish

A FISHERMAN, who had caught a very little Fish, was about to throw him into his basket. The little fellow, gasping, pleaded thus for his life: "What! You are never going to keep such a little chap as I am, not one-quarter grown! Fifty such as I am wouldn't make a decent dish. Do throw me back, and come and catch me again when I am bigger." "It's all very well to say 'Catch me again,' my little fellow," replied the Man, "but you know you'll make yourself very scarce for the future. You're big enough to make one in a frying-pan, so in you go."

*"A little thing in hand is worth more than a great thing in prospect."*



*You're big enough to make one in a frying pan.*

## The Fox and the Grapes



**A**HUNGRY Fox one day saw some tempting Grapes hanging at a good height from the ground. He made many attempts to reach them, but all in vain. Tired out by his failures, he walked off, grumbling to himself: "Nasty, sour things, I know you are, and not at all fit for a gentleman's eating."

*"It is easy to despise what you cannot get."*

## The Man and the Lion

A MAN and a Lion were discussing the relative strength of Men and Lions in general. The Man contended that he and his fellows were stronger than Lions by reason of their greater intelligence. "Come now with me," he cried, "and I will soon prove that I am right." So he took him into the public gardens and showed him a statue of Hercules overcoming the Lion and tearing his mouth in two.

"That is all very well," said the Lion, "but proves nothing, for it was a Man who made the statue."

*"We can easily represent things as we wish them to be."*

## The Sheep and the Dog

THE Sheep one day complained to the Shepherd that while they were shorn of their fleece, and their young ones often taken and killed for food, they received nothing in return but the green herbage of the earth, which grew of itself and cost him no pains to procure. “On the other hand, your Dog,” said they, “which gives no wool, and is of no use for food, is petted and fed with as good meat as his master.” “Cease, bleating simpletons!” replied the Dog, who overheard them; “were it not that I look after and watch you, and keep off Wolves and thieves, small good would be to you your herbage or anything else.”

*“When one is well off it is not to complain”*

## The Wolf in Disguise

A WOLF, who by frequent visits to a flock of Sheep in his neighborhood, began to be too well known to them, thought it wise, for the more successful carrying on of his thefts, to appear in a new character. To this end he disguised himself in a Shepherd's habit; and resting his forefeet on a stick, which served him by way of a crook, he softly made his way toward the fold. It happened that the Shepherd and his Dog both lay on the grass, fast asleep; so that he would certainly have gained his end if he had not foolishly tried to imitate the Shepherd's voice. The horrid noise awakened both, when the Wolf, encumbered with his disguise, and finding he could neither resist nor flee, yielded up his life, an easy prey to the Shepherds' Dog.

*"Character is often determined by your language."*

## The Hares and the Frogs

\*\*\*\*\*  
**T**HE Hares once took serious counsel among themselves whether death itself would not be preferable to their miserable condition. "What a sad state is ours," they said, "never to eat in comfort, to sleep ever in fear, to be startled by a shadow, and fly with beating heart at the rustling of the leaves. Better death by far"; and off they went accordingly to drown themselves in a neighboring lake. Some scores of Frogs who were enjoying the moonlight on the bank, scared at the approach of the Hares, jumped into the water. The splash awoke fresh fears in the breasts of the timid Hares,



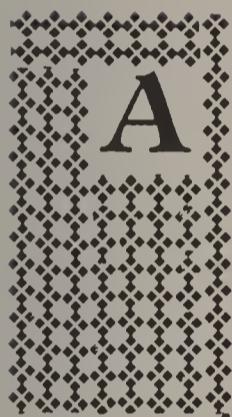
*Jumped into the water.*

and they came to a full stop in their flight. One wise old fellow among them cried, "Hold, brothers! See, weak and fearful as we are, beings exist that are more weak and fearful still. Why, then, should we seek to die? Let us rather make the best of our lot, such as it is."

*"There is always some one worse off than yourself."*



## The Countryman and the Snake



VILLAGER, one frosty day in the depth of winter, found a Snake under a hedge almost dead with the cold. Having pity on the poor creature, he brought it home, and laid it on the hearth near the fire. Revived by the heat, it reared itself up, and with dreadful hissings attacked the wife and children of its benefactor. The man, hearing their cries, rushed in, and with a mattock, which he brought in his hand, soon cut the snake in pieces. "Vile wretch!" said he; "is this the reward you make to him who saved your life? Die, as you deserve, but a single death is too good for you.. Ah," said he,

*"No gratitude from the wicked."*

## The Wolf and the Kid



KID was perched up on the top of a house, and looking down saw a Wolf passing under him. Immediately he began to revile and attack his enemy. “Murderer and thief,” he cried, “what do you here near honest folks’ houses? How dare you make an appearance where your vile deeds are known?”

“Curse away, my young friend,” said the Wolf,

*“It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.”*



*And looking down saw a wolf.*

## The Fox and the Wolf



**A** WOLF who lived in a cave, having laid in a good store of provisions, kept himself very close, and set to work to enjoy them. A Fox, who missed the Wolf from his usual haunts, at last found out where he was, and under pretense of asking after his health, came to the mouth of the cave and peeped in.



*The Wolf.*

*The Fox.*



He expected to be asked inside to partake, but the Wolf gruffly said that he was far too ill to see anybody. So the Fox trotted off again in anything but a charitable state of mind. Away he went to a Shepherd, and told the man to provide himself with a good stick and come with him and he would show him where to find a Wolf. The Shepherd came accordingly and killed the Wolf. The Fox thereupon took possession of the cave and its stores. He did not, however, long enjoy the fruits of his treachery, for the Man, passing by that way a few days after, looked into the cave, and, seeing the Fox there, killed him, too.

*"Security is not gotten by treachery."*

## The Fox and the Lion



THE first time the Fox saw the Lion he nearly died with fright. The next time he gathered sufficient courage to have a good stare. The third time he went boldly up to the Lion and commenced a familiar conversation with him.

*"Familiarity breeds contempt."*



*"When first you came I fancied you might be a thief."*

## The Thief and the Dog



THIEF who came near a house one night to rob it was very much annoyed at finding a stout Dog in the courtyard, who kept up a loud and steady bark. To quiet him he threw him a tempting piece of meat, whereupon the Dog exclaimed: "When first you came I fancied you might be a Thief; now that you try to bribe me from my duty, I am sure you are one; and I shan't leave off barking while you remain about the premises."

*"It is impossible to bribe a natural servant."*

## The Frogs Desiring a King

THE Frogs, living an easy, free sort of life among the lakes and ponds, once prayed Jupiter to send them a King. Jove, being at that time in a merry mood, threw them a Log, saying as he did so, "There, then, is a King for you." Awed by the splash, the Frogs watched their King in fear and trembling, till at last, encouraged by his stillness, one more daring than the rest jumped upon the shoulder of his monarch. Soon many others followed his example, and made merry on the back of their unresisting King. Speedily tiring of such a torpid ruler, they again petitioned Jupiter, and asked him to send something more like a King. This



*He sent them a stork.*

time he sent them a Stork, who tossed them about and gobbled them up without mercy. They lost no time, therefore, in beseeching the god to give them again their former state. "No, no," replied he, "a King that did you no harm did not please you. Make the best of the one you have, or you may chance to get a worse in his place."

*"Better no rule than cruel rule."*



## The Ass and the Lion Hunting

THE Lion once took a fancy to go hunting in company with an Ass. He sent the Ass into the forest, and told him to bray there as hard as he could. "By that means," said he, "you will rouse all the beasts in the forest. I shall stand here and catch all that fly this way." The Ass brayed in his most hideous manner; and when the Lion was tired of slaughter, he called to him to come out of the wood. "Did I not do my part well?" asked the conceited beast. "Excellently well," replied the Lion. "Had I not known that you were nothing more than an Ass, I should have been frightened myself."

*"Do not be proud of being a fool."*

## The Fowler and the Birds



FOWLER, in killing some Birds which he had caught in his nets, wounded his hand by accident so severely that he shed tears for the pain he suffered. "See," said a young Bird, "he shows signs of pity for us." "Don't mind his tears," said an old Bird, "but look at his bloody hands."

*"True pity is not to be judged by tears."*

## The Covetous Man



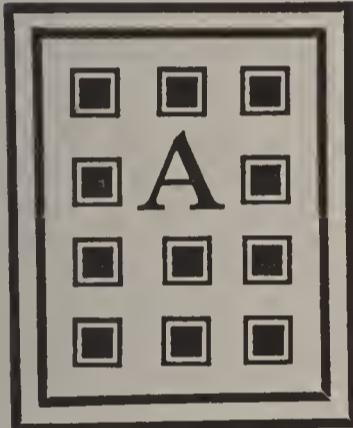
A MISER once buried all his money in the earth at the foot of a tree, and went every day to feast upon the sight of his treasure. A thievish fellow, who had watched him at this occupation, came one night and carried off the gold. The next day the Miser, finding his treasure gone, tore his clothes and filled the air with his lamentations. One of his neighbors told him that if he viewed the matter aright he had lost nothing. "Go every day," said he, "and fancy your money is there, and you will be as well off as ever."

*"Wealth unused might as well not exist."*



*Was caught in a trap which the farmer had planted there.*

## The Fox and the Cock



FOX, passing early one summer's morning near a farmyard, was caught in a trap which the farmer had planted there for that purpose.

A Cock saw at a distance what had happened, and, hardly daring to trust himself too near so dangerous a foe, approached him cautiously and peeped at him, not without considerable fear. Reynard saw him, and in his most bewitching manner addressed him as follows: "See, dear cousin," said he, "what an unfortunate accident has befallen me here! And, believe

me, it is all on your account. I was creeping through yonder hedge, on my way homeward, when I heard you crow, and resolved, before I went any further, to come and ask you how you did. By the way I met with this disaster. Now, if you would but run to the house and bring me a pointed stick, I think I could force it into this trap and free myself from its grip. Such a service I should not soon forget.” The Cock ran off and soon came back, not without the stick, which, however, was carried in the hand of the sturdy farmer, to whom he had told the story, and who lost no time in putting it out of Master Fox’s power to do any harm for the future.

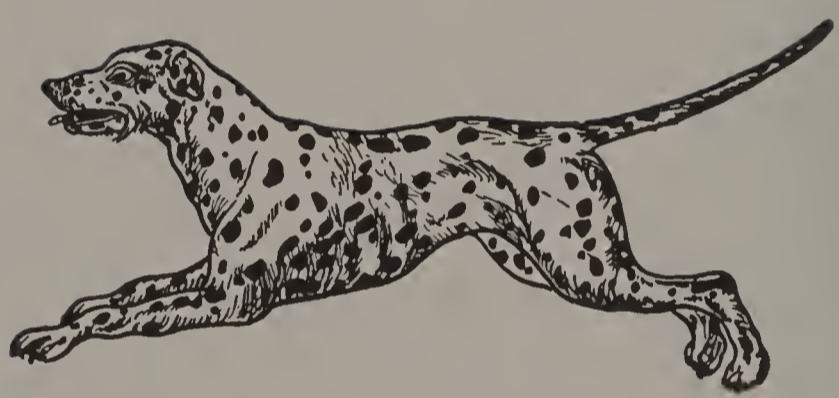
*“No help should be given to the wicked.”*



## The Dog Invited to Supper



CERTAIN rich Man invited a person of high rank to supper with him. Extraordinary preparations were made for the repast, and all the delicacies of the season provided. The Dog of the host having long wished to entertain another Dog, a friend of his, thought this would be a capital time to ask him to come. As soon, therefore, as it fell dusk the invited Dog came, and was shown by his friend into the kitchen. The



*He limped away and was soon surrounded.*

preparations there filled him with astonishment, and he resolved that when the time came he would eat enough to last him a week. He wagged his tail so hard and licked his chaps in anticipation with so much vigor that he attracted the notice of the head Cook, who, seeing a strange Dog about, caught him up by the tail, and after giving him a swing in the air sent him flying through the open window into the street. He limped away, and was soon surrounded by a lot of Dogs, to whom he had boasted of his invitation. They asked him eagerly how he had fared. "Oh, rarely," answered he. "I went on to that extent that I hardly knew which way I got out of the house."

*"Manners always speak louder than words."*

## The Bear and the Fowls



BEAR, who was bred in the savage deserts of Siberia, wished to see the world. He traveled from forest to forest, and from one kingdom to another, making many profound observations on his way. One day he came by accident into a farmer's yard, where he saw a number of Fowls standing to drink by the side of a pool. Observing that after every sip they turned up their heads toward the sky, he could not forbear



*Fowls standing to drink by a pool.*

inquiring the reason of so peculiar a ceremony. They told him that it was by way of returning thanks to Heaven for the benefits they received; and was indeed an ancient and religious custom, which they could not, with a safe conscience, or without impiety, omit. Here the Bear burst into a fit of laughter, at once mimicking their gestures, and ridiculing their superstition, in a most contemptuous manner. On this the Cock, with a spirit suitable to the boldness of his character, addressed him in the following words: “As you are a stranger, sir, you may perhaps be excused the indecency of your behavior; yet give me leave to tell you that none but a Bear would ridicule any religious ceremonies in the presence of those who believe them of importance.”

*“Only the ill bred mock at others.”*





*The Bear broke into a fit of laughter.*

## The Peacock and Juno

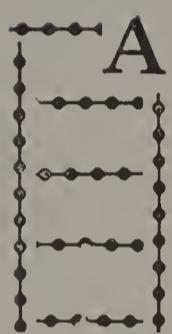
**T**HE Peacock complained to Juno that while every one laughed at his voice, an insignificant creature like the Nightingale had a note that delighted everybody. Juno, angry at the unreasonableness of her favorite bird, scolded him thus: “Envious bird that you are, I am sure you have no cause to complain. On your neck shine all the colors of the rainbow, and your extended tail shows like a mass of gems. No living being has every good thing to its own share. The falcon is endowed with swiftness, the eagle strength, the parrot speech, the raven the gift of augury, and the nightingale with a melodious voice, while you have both size and beauty. Cease, then, to complain, or the gifts you have shall be taken away.”

*“Be content with your lot; one cannot be first in everything.”*



*Juno angry at the unreasonableness.*

## The Fox in the Well



A N unlucky Fox, having fallen into a Well, was able, by dint of great efforts, just to keep his head above water. While he was there struggling and sticking his claws into the side of the Well, a Wolf came by and looked in. "What, my dear brother!" said he, with affected concern, "can it really be you that I see down there? How cold you must feel! How long have you been in? How came you to fall in? I am so pained to see you. Do tell me all about it." "The end of a rope would be of more use to me than all your pity," answered the Fox. "Just help me to set my foot once more on solid ground, and you shall have the whole story."

*"Never trust the advice of a man in difficulties."*

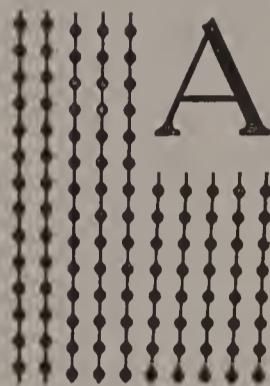
## The Mocking Bird



HERE is a certain Bird in America which has the faculty of mimicking the notes of every other songster, without being able himself to add any original strains to the concert. As one of these Mocking Birds was displaying his talent of ridicule among the branches of a venerable wood, “ ’Tis very well,” said a little warbler, speaking in the name of all the rest; “we grant you that our music is not without its faults; but why will you not favor us with a strain of your own?”

*“To only imitate does not create great character.”*

## The Ass Laden with Salt and with Sponge



A MAN drove his Ass to the seaside, and, having purchased there a load of salt, proceeded on his way home. In crossing a stream the Ass stumbled and fell. It was some time before he regained his feet, and by that time the salt had all melted away, and he was delighted to find that he had lost his burden. A little while after that the Ass, when laden with sponges, had occasion to cross the same stream. Remembering his former good luck, he stumbled this time on purpose, and was surprised to find that his load, so far from disappearing, became many times heavier than before.

*"The Easy way is not always the best."*



*He was delighted to find that he had lost his burden.*

## The Stag in the Ox-Stall



STAG, chased from his lair by the hounds, took refuge in a farmyard, and, entering a stable where a number of Oxen were stalled, thrust himself under a pile of hay in a vacant stall, where he lay concealed, all but the tips of his horns. Presently one of the Oxen said to him, "What has induced you to come in here? Aren't you aware of the risk you are running



*Chased from his lair by the hounds.*

of being captured by the herdsmen?" To which he replied, "Pray let me stay for the present. When night comes I shall easily escape under cover of the dark." In the course of the afternoon more than one of the farm-hands came in, to attend to the wants of the cattle, but not one of them noticed the presence of the Stag, who accordingly began to congratulate himself on his escape and to express his gratitude to the Oxen. "We wish you well," said the one who had spoken before, "but you are not out of danger yet. If the master comes you will certainly be found out, for nothing ever escapes his keen eyes." Presently, sure enough, in he came, and made a great to-do about the way the Oxen were kept. "The beasts are starving!" he cried; "here, give them more hay, and put plenty of litter under them."



As he spoke, he seized an armful himself from the pile where the Stag lay concealed, and at once detected him. Calling his men, he had him seized at once and killed for the table.

*“Nothing escapes the Master’s eye.”*



## The Mule Laden with Corn and the Mule Laden with Gold

**T**WO Mules were being driven along a lonely road. One was laden with Corn and the other with Gold. The one that carried the Gold was so proud of his burden that, although it was very heavy, he would not for the world have the least bit of it taken away. He trotted along with stately step, his bells jingling as he went. By and by some Robbers fell upon them. They let the Mule that carried the Corn go free; but they seized the Gold which the other carried, and, as he kicked and struggled to prevent their robbing him, they stabbed him to the heart. In dying, he said to the other Mule: "I see, brother, it is not always well to have grand duties to perform. If, like you, I had only served a Miller, this sad state would not now be mine."

*"Humble occupation is often a security."*

## The Fox and the Sick Lion

IT was reported that the Lion was sick and confined to his den, where he would be happy to see any of his subjects who might come to pay the homage that was due to him. Many accordingly went in, but it was observed that the Fox very carefully kept away. The Lion noticed his absence, and sent one of his Jackals to express a hope that he would show he was not insensible to motives of respect and charity, by coming and paying his duty like the rest. The Fox told the Jackal to offer his sincerest reverence to his master, and to say that he had more than once been on the point of coming to see him, but he had in truth observed that all the footprints at the mouth of the cave pointed

inward, and none outward, and not being able to explain the fact to his satisfaction, he had taken the liberty of stopping away. The truth was that the illness of the Lion's was only a sham to induce the beasts to come to his den, that he might the more easily devour them.

*"Be not too easily led."*



## The Monkey and the Dolphin



HEN people go on a voyage they often take with them Lap-Dogs or Monkeys as pets to while away the time. Thus it fell out that a man returning to Athens from the East had a pet Monkey on board with him. As they neared the coast of Attica a great storm burst upon them, and the ship capsized. All on board were thrown into the water, and tried to save themselves by swimming, the Monkey among the rest. A Dolphin saw him, and, sup-

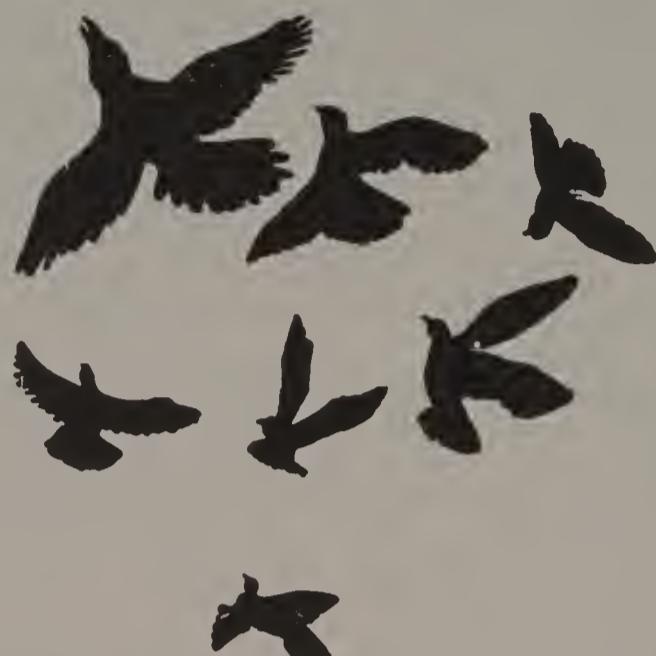
posing him to be a man, took him on his back and began swimming towards the shore. When they got near the Piraeus, which is the port of Athens, the Dolphin asked the Monkey if he was an Athenian. The Monkey replied that he was, and added that he came of a very distinguished family. "Then, of course, you know the Piraeus," continued the Dolphin. The Monkey thought he was referring to some high official or other, and replied, "Oh, yes, he's a very old friend of mine." At that, detecting his hypocrisy, the Dolphin was so disgusted that he dived below the surface, and the unfortunate Monkey was quickly drowned.

*"Falsehood leads to destruction."*





*The Dolphin asked the Monkey if he was an Athenian.*



*The whole flock instantly ascended into the air.*

## The Wild and Tame Geese

WO Geese strayed from a farmyard and swam down a stream to a large morass, which afforded them an extensive range and plenty of food. A flock of Wild Geese frequently resorted to the same place; and though they were at first so shy as not to suffer the tame ones to join them, by degrees they



became well acquainted and associated freely together. One evening their crackling reached the ears of a Fox that was prowling at no great distance from the morass. The artful plunderer directed his course through a wood on the borders of it, and was within a few yards of his prey before any of the geese perceived him. But the alarm was given just as he was springing upon them, and the whole flock instantly ascended into the air, with loud and dissonant cries. The Wild Geese winged their flight into higher regions, and were seen no more; but the two tame ones, unused to soar, and accustomed to receive protection without any exertion of their own powers, soon dropped down, and became successively the victims of the Fox.

*"Home is always safer than strange places."*

## The Frog Who Wished to Be as Big as an Ox



N Ox, grazing in a meadow, chanced to set his foot on a young Frog and crushed him to death. His brothers and sisters, who were playing near, at once ran to tell their mother what had happened. "The monster that did it, Mother, was such a size!" said they. The Mother, who was a vain old thing, thought that she could easily make herself as large. "Was it as big as this?" she asked, blowing and puffing herself out. "Oh, much bigger than that," replied the young Frogs. "As this, then?" cried she, puffing and blowing again with all her might. "Nay, mother," said they; "if you were to try till you burst yourself, you would never be so big." The silly old Frog tried to puff herself out still more, and burst herself indeed.

*"Self-conceit may lead to self-destruction."*



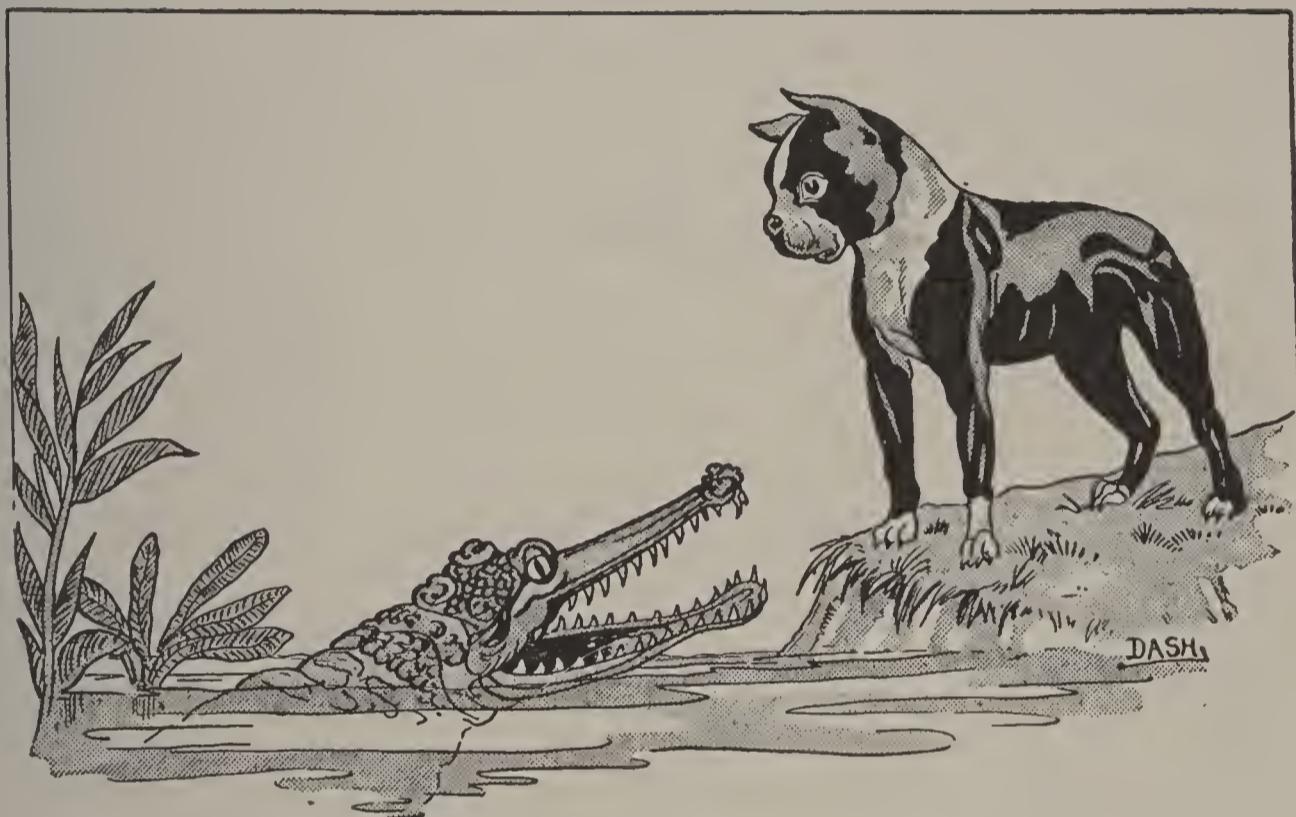
*Who were playing near.*

## The Dog and the Crocodile



DOG, running along the banks of  
the Nile, grew thirsty, but fearing  
to be seized by the monsters of  
that river, he would not stop to  
satiate his drought, but lapped as  
he ran. A Crocodile, raising his head above  
the surface of the water, asked him why he was  
in such a hurry. He had often, he said, wished  
for his acquaintance, and should be glad to  
embrace the present opportunity. "You do me  
great honor," said the Dog, "but it is to avoid  
such companions as you that I am in so much  
haste."

*"We can never be too carefully guarded against acquaintance  
with persons of bad character."*



*A Crocodile raising his head above the surface of the waters.*

## The Viper and the File



A VIPER entered a smith's shop, and looked up and down for something to eat. He settled at last upon a file, and began to gnaw it greedily. "Bite away," said the File gruffly, "you'll get little from me. It is my business to take from all and give to none."

*"It is useless attacking the insensible."*

## The Lion in Love



LION fell in love with the fair daughter of a Forester, and demanded her of her father in marriage. The man durst not refuse, though he would gladly have done so; but he told the Lion that his daughter was so young and delicate that he could only consent upon condition that his teeth should first be drawn and his claws cut off. The Lion was so enslaved by love that he agreed to this without a murmur, and it was accordingly done. The Forester then seized a club, laid him dead upon the spot, and so broke off the match.

*"Love can tame the wildest."*

## The Fox Without a Tail

**A** FOX was once caught in a trap by his tail and in order to get away was forced to leave it behind. Knowing that without a tail he would be a laughing-stock for all his fellows, he resolved to try to induce them to part with theirs. So at the next assembly of Foxes he made a speech on the foolish habit of tails in general, and the inconvenience of a Fox's tail in particular, adding that he had never felt so easy as since he had given up his own. When he had sat down, a sly old fellow rose, and waving his long brush with a graceful air, said, with a laugh, that if, like the last speaker, he had lost his tail, nothing further would have been needed to convince him; but till such an accident should happen, he should certainly vote in favor of tails.

*"Do not follow bad advice."*



*In order to get away he was forced to leave it behind.*

## The Thief and the Innkeeper

**A**THIEF hired a room in a tavern, and stayed some days in the hope of stealing something which should enable him to pay his reckoning. When he had waited some days in vain, he saw the Innkeeper dressed in a new and handsome coat, and sitting before his door. The Thief sat down beside him, and talked with him. As the conversation began to flag, the Thief yawned terribly, and at the same time howled like a wolf. The Innkeeper said, "Why do you howl so fearfully?" "I will tell you," said the Thief: "but first let me ask you to hold my clothes, for I wish to leave them in your hands. I know not, sir, when I got this habit of yawning, nor whether these attacks of

howling were inflicted on me as a judgment for my crimes, or for any other cause; but this I do know, that when I yawn for the third time, I actually turn into a wolf, and attack men."

With this speech he commenced a second fit of yawning, and again howled as a wolf, as he did at first. The Innkeeper hearing his tale, and believing what he said, became greatly alarmed, and rising from his seat, attempted to run away. The Thief laid hold of his coat, and entreated him to stop, saying, "Pray wait, sir, and hold my clothes, or I shall tear them to pieces in my fury, when I turn into a wolf." At the same moment he yawned the third time, and set up a howl like a wolf. The Innkeeper, frightened lest he should be attacked, left his new coat in his hand, and ran as fast as he could into the inn for safety. The Thief made off with his new coat, and did not return again to the inn.

*"Every tale is not to be believed."*

## The Dog and the Shadow

**I**T happened that a Dog had got a piece of meat and was carrying it home in his mouth to eat it in peace. Now, on his way home he had to cross a plank lying across a running brook. As he crossed, he looked down and saw his own shadow reflected in the water beneath. Thinking it was another dog with another piece of meat, he made up his mind to have that also. So he made a snap at the shadow in the water, but as he opened his mouth the piece of meat fell out, dropped into the water and was never seen any more.

*"Beware lest you lost the substance by grasping at the shadow."*



*And saw his own shadow.*

## The Knight and His Charger



CERTAIN Knight in time of war took great pains to keep his horse well fed and cared for, and in first-rate condition. When the war was over the Knight's pay was reduced, and he allowed his Horse, that had carried him nobly through many a hot engagement, to be used for dragging huge logs of timber, and for hire in many other rough and disagreeable ways. Being thus hardly fed and badly treated, the animal's strength and spirit fell away. It was not long before the war was renewed, and the Knight, taking his Horse to himself again, tried,



*To make him into a battle steed once more.*

by good feeling and better treatment, to make him into a battle-steed once more. There was not time for this, however, and the Horse, as his weak legs gave way under him in a charge, said to his master, "It is too late now to repair your neglect. You have degraded me from a Horse into an Ass. It is not my fault that I can no longer bear you as before."

*"It is unwise to neglect a useful tool, even when not in use."*



## The Buffoon and the Countryman



**O**N the occasion of some festivities that were given by a Roman nobleman, a droll fellow of a Merry-Andrew caused much laughter by his tricks upon the stage, and, more than all, by his imitation of the squeaking of a pig. It seemed to the hearers so real that they called for it again and again. One Man, however, in the audience, thought the imitation was not perfect; and he made his way to the stage and said that, if he were permitted, he to-morrow would enter the lists and squeak against the Merry-Andrew for a wager. The

mob, anticipating great fun, shouted their consent, and accordingly, when the next day came, the two rival jokers were in their place. The hero of the previous day went first, and the hearers, more pleased than ever, fairly roared with delight. Then came the turn of the Countryman, who, having a Pig carefully concealed under his cloak, so that no one would have suspected its existence, vigorously pinched its ear with his thumb-nail, and made it squeak with a vengeance. “Not half as good—not half as good!” cried the audience, and many among them even began to hiss. “Fine judges you!” replied the Countryman, rushing to the front of the stage, drawing the Pig from under his cloak, and holding the animal up on high. “Behold the performer that you condemn.”

*“Men often applaud an imitation, and hiss the real thing.”*

## Hercules and Pallas

HERCULES, once journeying along a narrow roadway, came across a strange-looking animal that reared its head and threatened him. Nothing daunted, the hero gave him a few lusty blows with his club and thought to have gone on his way. The monster, however, much to the astonishment of Hercules, was now three times as big as it was before and of a still more threatening aspect. He thereupon redoubled his blows and laid about him fast and furiously; but the harder and quicker the strokes of the club, the bigger and more frightful grew the monster, and now completely filled up the road. Pallas then appeared upon the scene. "Stop, Hercules," said she. "Cease your blows. The monster's name is Strife. Let it alone, and it will soon become as little as it was at first."

*"Hard blows will not keep a good man down."*

## The One-Eyed Doe

A DOE that had but one eye used to graze near the sea, so that she might keep her blind eye toward the water while she surveyed the country and saw that no hunters came near with the other. It happened, however, that some men in a boat saw her, and as she did not perceive their approach they came very close, and one who had a gun fired and shot her. In her dying agony she cried out: "Alas, hard fate! that I should receive my death-wound from the side whence I expected no ill, and be safe on that where I looked for most danger."

*"You cannot escape your fate."*



*So that she might keep her blind eye toward the water.*

## The Stag at the Pool

**A**THIRSTY Stag went down to a pool to drink. As he bent over the surface he saw his own reflection in the water, and was struck with admiration for his fine spreading antlers, but at the same time he felt nothing but disgust for the weakness and slenderness of his legs. While he stood there looking at himself, he was seen and attacked by a Lion; but in the chase which ensued, he soon drew away from his pursuer, and kept his lead as long as the ground over which he ran was open and free of trees. But coming presently to a wood, he was caught by his antlers in the branches, and fell a victim to the teeth and claws of his enemy. “Woe is me!” he cried with his last breath; “I despised my legs, which might have saved my life; but I gloried in my horns, and they have proved my ruin.”

“*What is worth most is often valued least.*”



*And was struck with admiration.*

## The Lion, the Fox, and the Ass



N Ass and a Fox were rambling through a forest one day, when they were met by a Lion. The Fox was seized with great fear, and taking the first opportunity of getting the ear of the Lion, thought to obtain his own safety at the expense of his companion. "Sire," said he, "yon same Ass is young and plump, and if your Majesty would care to make a dinner off him, I know how he might be caught without much trouble. There is a pitfall not far away into which I can easily lead him." The Lion agreed, and, seeing the Ass securely taken, he began his dinner by devouring the traitorous Fox, reserving the Ass to be eaten at his leisure.

*"Rewards are never gained by treachery."*



*When they were met by a Lion.*

## The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

**A** WOLF found great difficulty in getting at the sheep owing to the vigilance of the shepherd and his dogs. But one day it found the skin of a sheep that had been flayed and thrown aside, so it put it on over its own pelt and strolled down among the sheep. The Lamb that belonged to the sheep whose skin the Wolf was wearing began to follow the Wolf in the sheep's clothing; so, leading the Lamb a little apart, he soon made a meal off her, and for some time he succeeded in deceiving the sheep, and enjoying hearty meals.

*"Appearances are deceptive."*



*So he put it on over its own pelt.*

## The Swallow and Other Birds



A FARMER, sowing his fields with flax, was observed by a Swallow, who, like the rest of her tribe, had traveled a good deal and was very clever. Among other things, she knew that of the same flax, when it grew up, nets and snares would be made, to entrap her little friends, the Birds of the country. Hence she earnestly besought them to help her in picking up and eating the hateful seed before it had time to spring from the ground. Food of a much nicer kind was, however, then so plentiful, and it was so pleasant to fly about and sing, thinking of nothing, that they paid no attention to her entreaties. By and by the blades of the flax appeared above the ground, and the anxiety of the Swallow was

renewed. "It is not yet too late," said she; "pull it all up, blade by blade, and you may then escape the fate which is otherwise in store for you. You cannot, like me, fly to other countries when danger threatens you here." The little Birds, however, still took no notice of the Swallow, except to consider her a very troublesome person, whom silly fears had set beside herself. In the course of time the flax grew, ripened, and was gathered, and made up into nets, as the Swallow had foretold. Many a little Bird thought, in dying, of the Swallow they held to be so crazy. The Swallow, in despair at their thoughtless behavior, has since preferred the society of men to that of her former companions.

*"Destroy the seed of evil, or it will grow up to your ruin."*

## The Wolf and the Lamb

ONCE upon a time a Wolf was lapping at a spring on a hillside, when looking up, what should he see but a Lamb just beginning to drink a little lower down. "There's my supper," thought he, "if only I can find some excuse to seize it." Then he called out to the Lamb, "How dare you muddle the water from which I am drinking?"

"Nay, master, nay," said Lambikin; "if the water be muddy up there, I cannot be the cause of it, for it runs down from you to me."

"Well, then," said the Wolf, "why did you call me bad names this time last year?"



*Said the Lamb, "I am only six months old."*

"That cannot be," said the Lamb; "I am only six months old."

"I don't care," snarled the Wolf; "if it was not you, it was your father"; and with that he rushed upon the poor little Lamb and—

Warra, warra, warra, warra, warra—ate her all up. But before she died she gasped out:

*"Any excuse will serve a tyrant."*



## The Maid and the Pail of Milk



**D**OLLY, the Milkmaid, having been a good girl for a long time, and careful in her work, her mistress gave her a Pail of New Milk for herself. With the Pail on her head, she was tripping gayly along to the house of the Doctor, who was going to give a large party, and wanted the Milk for a junket. "For this Milk I shall get a shilling," said Dolly, "and with that shilling I shall buy twenty of the eggs laid by our neighbor's fine fowls. These



*Her mistress gave her a pail of milk.*

eggs I shall put under mistress' old hen, and if only half of the chicks grow up and thrive before the next fair time comes round I shall be able to sell them for a good guinea. Then I shall buy that jacket I saw in the village the other day, and a hat and ribbons, too; and when I go to the fair, how smart I will be! Robin will be there, for certain, and he will come up and offer to be friends again. I won't come round so easily, though; and when he tries to kiss me, I shall just toss up my head and—" Here Dolly gave her head the toss she was thinking about. Down came the Pail, and the Milk ran out on the ground! Good-by now the eggs, chickens, jacket, hat, ribbons, and all!

*"Do not count your chickens before they are hatched."*



## The Fox and the Ass



**A**N Ass, finding a Lion's skin, put it on, and ranged about the forest. The beasts fled in terror, and he was delighted at the success of his disguise. Meeting a Fox, he rushed upon him, and this time he tried to imitate as well the roaring of the Lion. "Ah," said the Fox, "if you had held your tongue I should have been deceived like the rest; but now you bray I know who you are."

*"Fine clothes may disguise, but silly words will disclose a fool."*



*He tried to imitate as well the roaring of the Lion.*

## The Nurse and the Wolf



S a Wolf was hunting up and down for his supper, he passed by the door of a house where a little child was crying loudly. "Hold your tongue," said the Nurse to the child, "or I'll throw you to the Wolf." The Wolf, hearing this, waited near the house, expecting that she would keep her word. The Nurse, however, when the child was quiet, changed her tone, and said: "If the naughty Wolf comes now we will beat his brains out for him." The Wolf thought it was then high time to be off, and he went away grumbling at his folly in putting faith in the words of a woman.

*"Enemies' promises were made to be broken."*



*Hunting up and down for his supper.*



*He that is neither one thing or the other has no friends.*

## The Birds, the Beasts, and the Bat



ONCE upon a time a fierce war was waged between the Birds and the Beasts. The Bat at first fought on the side of the Birds, but later on in the day the tide of battle ran so much in favor of the Beasts that he changed over and fought on the other side. Owing mainly, however, to the admirable conduct and courage of the Eagle, the tide once more, and finally, turned in favor of the Birds. The Bat, to save his life and escape the shame of falling into the hands of his deserted friends, fled, and has ever since skulked in caves and hollow trees, coming out only in the dusk, when the Birds are gone to roost.

*"He that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends."*

## The Goat and the Lion



THE Lion, seeing a Goat skipping about in high glee upon a steep, craggy rock, called to him to come down upon the green pasture where he stood, and where he could feed in much greater comfort. The Goat, who saw through the design of the Lion, replied: "Many thanks for your advice, dear Lion, but I wonder whether you are thinking most of my comfort, or how you would relish a nice morsel of Goat's flesh."

*"Never accept interested advice."*

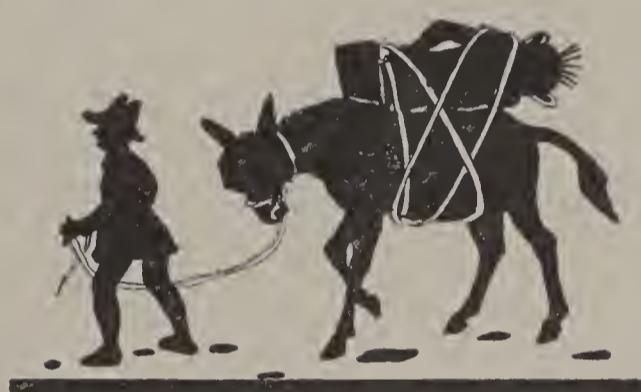


*"Many thanks for your advice," dear Lion.*

## The Ass Carrying an Idol

THE Master of an Ass was employed to take an idol from the shop of the sculptor where it was made to the temple in which it was to be placed. For this purpose it was put on the back of the Ass and carried through the principal streets of the city. Seeing that all the people as he went along bent themselves in lowly reverence, the animal fancied that it was to him that they were doing obeisance, and in consequence pricked up his ears, flourished his tail, and felt as proud as might be. The Idol once delivered, the Man mounted his Ass and rode him home. The Man was not at all pleased with the amount he had received for the job, and the poor brute, feeling the weight of his Master's cudgel, and finding that the people now took not the slightest notice as he passed, saw that it was to the Idol and not to himself that the homage had been paid.

*"Do not try to take credit that is due to others."*



*And carried through the principal streets of the city.*

## The Flies and the Honey-Pot



A JAR of honey having been upset in a housekeeper's room, a number of Flies were attracted by its sweetness, and, placing their feet in it, ate it greedily. Their feet, however, became so smeared with the honey that they could not use their wings, nor release themselves, and were suffocated. Just as they were expiring, they exclaimed: "Oh, foolish creatures that we are; for the sake of a little pleasure we have destroyed ourselves."

*"Pleasure bought with pains, hurts."*



*Their feet, however, became so smeared.*

## The Wolf and the Ass

THE Wolves once selected one of their number to be their ruler. The Wolf that was chosen was a plausible, smooth-spoken rascal, and on a very early day he addressed an assembly of the Wolves as follows: "One thing," he said, "is of such vital importance, and will tend so much to our general welfare, that I cannot impress it too strongly upon your attention. Nothing cherishes true brotherly feeling and promotes the general good so much as the suppression of all selfishness. Let each one of you, then, share with any hungry brother who may be near whatever in hunting may fall to your lot." "Hear, hear;" cried an Ass, who listened to the speech; "and, of course, you yourself will begin with the fat Sheep that you hid yesterday in a corner of your lair."

*"Practice what you preach."*

## The Fox and the Ape

**U**PON the decease of the Lion, the beasts of the forest assembled to choose another king.

The Ape played so many grimaces, gambols, and antic tricks that he was elected by a large majority and the crown was placed upon his head. The Fox, envious of this distinction, seeing soon after a trap baited with a piece of meat, approached the new king and said, with mock humility: "May it please your majesty, I have found on your domain a treasure to which, if you will deign to accompany me, I will conduct you." The Ape thereupon set off with the Fox, and on arriving at the spot laid his paw upon the meat. Snap! went the trap, and caught him by the fingers. Mad with shame and the pain, he reproached the Fox for a false thief and a traitor. Reynard laughed heartily, and going off, said over his shoulder, with a sneer:

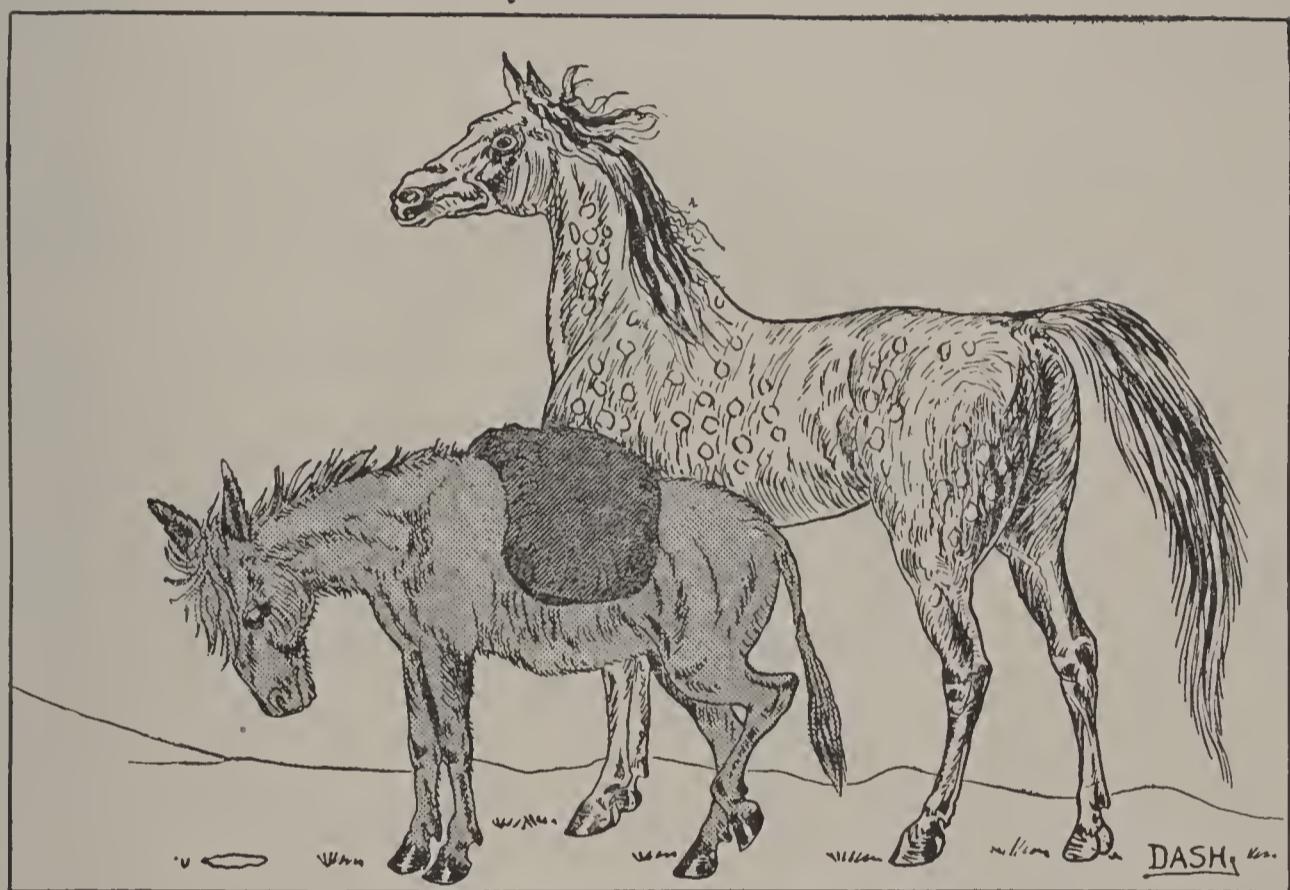
*"You a king, and not understand a trap!"*

## The Mule



ONE morning a Mule, who had too much to eat and too little to do, began to think himself a very fine fellow indeed, and frisked about saying, "My father was undoubtedly a high-spirited horse and I take after him entirely." But very soon afterwards he was put into the harness and compelled to go a very long way with a heavy load behind him. At the end of the day, exhausted by his unusual exertions, he said dejectedly to himself, "I must have been mistaken about my father; he can only have been a Mule, after all."

*"A heavy load is a sure cure for conceit."*



*"I must have been mistaken about my father."*



*The Horse in its fine trappings.*

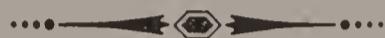
## The Horse and the Ass



A HORSE and an Ass were traveling together, the Horse prancing along in its fine trappings, the Ass carrying with difficulty the heavy weight in its panniers. "I wish I were you," sighed the Ass; "nothing to do and well fed, and all that fine harness upon you." Next day, however, there was a great battle, and the Horse was wounded to death in the final charge of the day. His friend, the Ass, happened to pass by shortly afterwards and found him on the point of death. "I was wrong," said the Ass,

*"Better humble security than gilded danger."*

## The Oak and the Reeds



**A**VIOLENT Storm uprooted an Oak that grew on the bank of a river. The Oak drifted across the stream and lodged among some Reeds. Wondering to find these still standing, he could not help asking them how it was they had escaped the fury of a Storm which had torn him up by the roots. "We bent our heads to the blast," said they "and it passed over us. You stood stiff and stubborn until you could stand no longer."

*"Obscurity often brings safety."*



*"We bent our heads to the blast," said they.*

## The Fox and the Stork



**A**T one time the Fox and the Stork were on visiting terms and seemed very good friends. So the Fox invited the Stork to dinner, and for a joke put nothing before her but some soup in a very shallow dish. This the Fox could easily lap up, but the Stork could only wet the end of her long bill in it, and left the meal as hungry as when she began. "I am sorry," said the Fox, "the soup is not to your liking."

"Pray do not apologize," said the Stork. "I hope you will return this visit and come and dine with me soon." So a day was appointed



*In a very long-necked jar.*

when the Fox should visit the Stork; but when they were seated at table all that was for their dinner was contained in a very long-necked jar with a narrow mouth, in which the Fox could not insert his snout, so all he could manage to do was to lick the outside of the jar.

"I will not apologize for the dinner," said the Stork;

*"One bad turn deserves another."*



## The Two Rats

**A**CUNNING old Rat discovered in his rounds a most tempting piece of cheese, which was placed in a trap. But being well aware that if he touched it he would be caught in a trap, he treacherously accosted one of his young companions, and, under the mask of friendship, informed him of the prize, which he could not enjoy, as he had just swallowed a hearty meal. The inexperienced Rat thanked him with gratitude for the intelligence, and heedlessly sprang upon the tempting bait; on which the gin closed and instantly destroyed him. His insidious adviser, being now quite secure, quietly ate up the cheese.

*"Interested advisers usually are seeking some benefit."*



*A formal, solemn Owl had for many years made his home.*

## The Owl and the Nightingale

**A**FORMAL, solemn Owl had for many years made his home among the ruins of an old monastery, and had pored so often over some moldy manuscripts, the stupid relics of a monkish library, that he grew infected with the pride and pedantry of the place, and, mistaking gravity for wisdom, would sit whole days with his eyes half-shut, fancying himself profoundly learned. It happened, as he sat one evening, half-buried in meditation and half in sleep, that

a Nightingale, unluckily perching near him, began her melodious lays. He started from his reverie, and with a horrid screech interrupted her song. “Begone!” cried he, “thou impertinent minstrel, nor distract with noisy dissonance my sublime contemplations; and know, vain songster, that harmony consists in truth alone, which is gained by laborious study, and not in languishing notes, fit only to soothe the ear of a lovesick maid.” “Conceited pedant,” returned the Nightingale, “whose wisdom lies only in the feathers that muffle up thy unmeaning face; music is a natural and rational entertainment; and, though not adapted to the ears of an Owl, has ever been relished and admired by all who are possessed of true taste and elegance.”

*“Self-importance means little to the truly wise.”*



*In the feathers that muffle up thy unmeaning face.*

## The Discontented Ass

A N Ass, in a hard winter, wished for a little warm weather and a mouthful of fresh grass, in exchange for a dry truss of straw and a cold lodging. In good time the warm weather and the fresh grass came on, but so much toil and business along with it that the Ass grows quickly as sick of the Spring as he was of the Winter. He next longs for Summer, and when that comes finds his toils and drudgery greater than in the Spring; and then he fancies he shall never be well till Autumn comes; but there again, what with carrying apples, grapes, fuel, winter provisions, and such like, he finds himself in greater trouble than ever. In fine, when he has trod the circle of the year in a course of restless labor, his last prayer is for Winter again, and that he may but take up his rest where he began his complaint.

*"To be unhappy, complain about your lot."*

## The Wolf and the Mastiff



WOLF, who was almost skin and bone—so well did the Dogs of the neighborhood keep guard—met, one moon-shiny night, a sleek Mastiff, who was, moreover, as strong as he was fat. The Wolf would gladly have supped off him, but saw there would first be a great fight, for which, in his condition, he was not prepared; so, bidding the Dog good-night very humbly, he praised his

good looks. "It would be easy for you," replied the Mastiff, "to get as fat as I am if you liked. Quit this forest, where you and your fellows live so wretchedly, and often die with hunger. Follow me, and you shall fare much better."

"What shall I have to do?" asked the Wolf. "Almost nothing," answered the Dog; "only chase away the beggars and fawn upon the folks of the house. You will, in return, be paid with all sorts of nice things—bones of fowls and pigeons—to say nothing of many a friendly pat on the head." The Wolf, at the picture of so much comfort, nearly shed tears of joy. They trotted off together, but, as they went along, the Wolf noticed a bare spot on the Dog's neck. "What is that mark?" said he. "Oh, nothing," said the Dog. "How nothing?" urged the Wolf.



*So, bidding the Dog good-night very humbly, he praised his good looks.*

“Oh, the merest trifle,” answered the Dog; “the collar which I wear when I am tied up is the cause of it.” “Tied up!” exclaimed the Wolf, with a sudden stop; “tied up? Can you not always then run where you please?” “Well, not quite always,” said the Mastiff; “but what can that matter?” “It matters so much to me,” rejoined the Wolf, “that your lot shall not be mine at any price.” And, leaping away, he ran once more to his native forest.

*“Better starve free, than be a fat slave.”*



## The Cobbler Turned Doctor



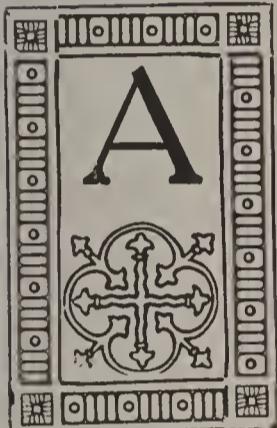
COBBLER, unable to make a living by his trade, rendered desperate by poverty, began to practice medicine in a town in which he was not known. He sold a drug, pretending that it was an antidote to all poisons, and obtained a great name for himself by long-winded puffs and advertisements. He happened to fall sick himself of a serious illness, on which the governor of the town determined to test his skill. For this purpose he called for a cup, and while filling it with water pretended to mix poison with the Cobbler's antidote, and commanded him to drink it, on the promise of a reward. The Cobbler, under the fear of death,

confessed that he had no knowledge of medicine, and was only made famous by the stupid clamors of the crowd. The governor called a public assembly, and thus addressed the citizens: "Of what folly have you been guilty? You have not hesitated to trust your heads to a man whom no one could employ to make even the shoes for their feet."

*"A cobbler should stick to his last."*



## The Owl and the Grasshopper

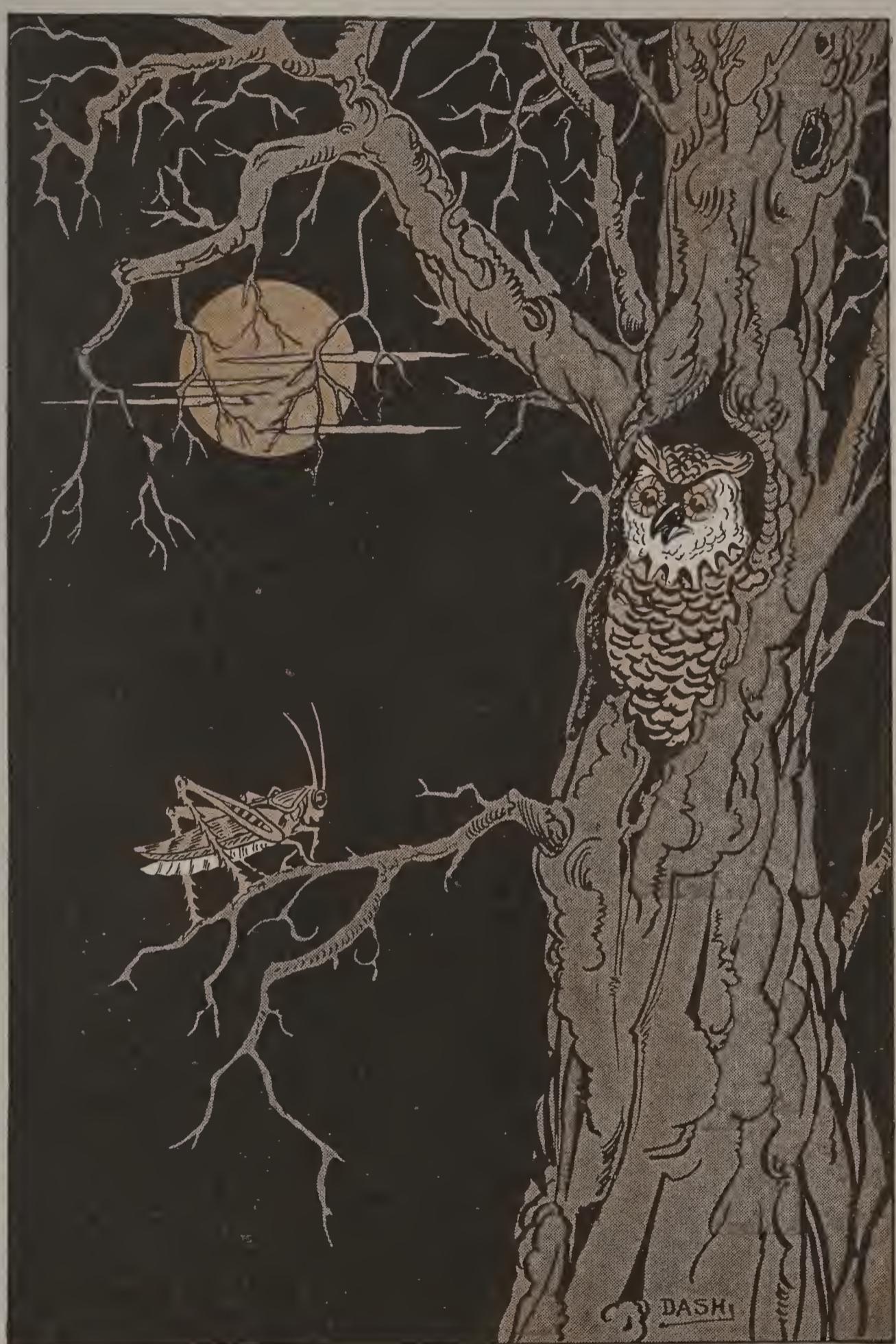


N Owl, who was sitting in a hollow tree, dozing away a long summer's afternoon, was very much disturbed by a rogue of a Grasshopper singing in the grass beneath. So far, indeed, from keeping quiet or moving away at the request of the Owl, the Grasshopper sang all the more, and called her an old blinker that only showed out at night when all honest people were going to bed. The Owl waited in silence for a short time, and then artfully addressed the Grasshopper as follows: "Well, my dear, if one cannot be allowed to sleep, it is something to be kept awake by such a pleasant little pipe as yours,

which makes most agreeable music, I must say. And now I think of it, my mistress Pallas gave me the other day a bottle of delicious nectar. If you will take the trouble to come up, you shall have a drop and it will clear your voice nicely." The silly Grasshopper, beside himself with the flattery, came hopping up to the Owl. When he came within reach, the Owl caught him, killed him, and finished her nap in comfort.

*"Flattery is not a proof of true admiration."*





*Came hopping up to the Owl.*



*The Swallow and the Crow had a contention.*

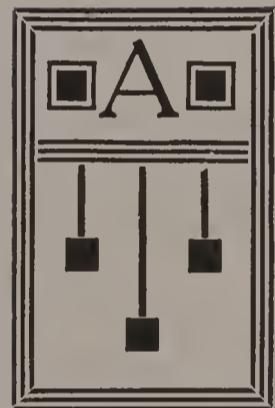
## The Swallow and the Crow



THE Swallow and the Crow had a contention about their plumage. The Crow put an end to the dispute by saying: "Your feathers are all very well in the spring, but mine protect me against the winter."

*"Fine-weather friends are not worth much."*

## The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse



COUNTRY MOUSE, a plain, sensible sort of fellow, was once visited by a former companion of his, who lived in a neighboring city. The Country Mouse put before his friend some fine peas, some choice bacon, and a bit of rare old Stilton, and called upon him to eat heartily of the good cheer. The City Mouse nibbled a little here and there in a dainty manner, wondering at the pleasure his host took in



*A plain, sensible sort of fellow.*

such coarse and ordinary fare. In the after-dinner chat the Town Mouse said to the Country Mouse: "Really, my good friend, that you can keep in such good spirits in this dismal, dead-and-alive place surprised me altogether. You see here no life, no gayety, no society, in short, but go on and on in a dull, humdrum sort of way, from one year's end to another. Come now with me, this very night, and see with your own eyes what a life I lead." The Country Mouse consented, and as soon as it fell dark, off they started for the city, where they arrived just as a splendid supper, given by the master of the house where our town friend lived, was over and the guests had departed. The City Mouse soon got together a heap of dainties on a corner of the handsome Turkey carpet. The Country Mouse, who had never even heard the names of half the meats set before him, was hesitating where he should begin, when the room

door creaked, opened, and in entered a servant with a light. The companions ran off, but everything soon being quiet again, they returned to their repast, when once more the door opened, and the son of the master of the house came in with a great bounce, followed by his little Terrier, who ran sniffing to the very spot where our friends had just been. The City Mouse was by that time safe in his hole—which, by the way, he had not been thoughtful enough to show to his friend, who could find no better shelter than that afforded by a sofa, behind which he waited in fear and trembling till quietness was again restored. The City Mouse then called upon him to resume his supper, but the Country Mouse said, “No, no; I shall be off as fast as I can. I would rather have a crust with peace and quietness than all your fine things in the midst of such alarm and frights as these.”

“*Better beans and bacon in peace, than cakes and ale in fear.*”

## The Lion, the Fox, and the Wolf

THE King of the Forest was once long and seriously ill, and his Majesty's temper not being at all improved by the trial, the Fox, with his usual discretion, kept away from Court as much as he could. He slunk about, however, as near as he could without being seen, and one day overheard the Wolf talking to the Lion about him. The Wolf and the Fox were never good friends, and the Wolf was now calling the Lion's attention to the fact that the Fox had not shown his face for a long time at Court, and added that he had strong reasons for suspecting that he was busily engaged in hatching some treason or other. The Lion thereupon com-



*And His Majesty's temper.*

manded that the Fox should be brought at once to his presence, and the Jackal was accordingly sent to look for him. The Fox, being asked what he had to say for himself, replied that his absence, so far from arising from any want of respect for his sovereign, was the result for his extreme concern for his welfare. He had gone far and wide, he said, and consulted the most skillful physicians as to what was the best thing to be done to cure the King's most grievous malady. "They say," stated he (and here he gave a malicious leer at the Wolf), "that the only thing to save your Majesty's life is to wrap yourself in the warm skin torn from a newly-killed Wolf." The Lion, eager to try the experiment, at once dragged the Wolf toward him and killed him on the spot.

*"It is easier to get into the enemy's toils than out again."*

## The King's Son and the Painted Lion



**A**KING who had one only son, fond of martial exercises, had a dream in which he was warned that his son would be killed by a Lion. Afraid lest the dream should prove true, he built for his son a pleasant palace, and adorned its walls for his amusement with all kinds of animals of the size of life, among which was a picture of a Lion. When the young Prince saw this, his grief at being thus confined burst out afresh, and, standing

near the Lion, he thus spoke: "Oh, you most detestable of animals! Through a lying dream of my father's, which he saw in his sleep, I am shut up on your account in this palace as if I had been a girl. What shall I now do to you?" With these words he stretched out his hands toward a thorn tree, meaning to cut a stick from its branches that he might beat the Lion, when one of its sharp prickles pierced his finger, and caused great pain and inflammation, so that the young Prince fell down in a fainting fit. A violent fever suddenly set in, from which he died not many days after.

*"We had better bear our troubles bravely than try  
to escape them."*





*And standing near the Lion.*

## The Mice in Council



CERTAIN Cat that lived in a large country house was so vigilant and active that the Mice, finding their numbers grievously thinned, held a council, with closed doors, to consider what they had best do. Many plans had been started and dismissed, when a young Mouse, rising and catching the eye of the President, said that he had a proposal to make, that he was sure must meet with the approval of all. "If," he said, "the Cat wore around her neck a little bell, every step she took would make it tinkle; then, ever forewarned of her approach, we should have time to reach our holes. By

this simple means we should live in safety and defy her power.” The speaker resumed his seat with a complacent air, and a murmur of applause arose from the audience. An old gray Mouse, with a merry twinkle in his eye, now got up, and said that the plan of the last speaker was an admirable one; but he feared it had one drawback. He had not told them who should put the bell around the Cat’s neck.

*“It is easy to propose impossible remedies.”*



## The Hare Afraid of His Ears



THE Lion, being once badly hurt by the horns of a goat, went into a great rage, and swore that every animal with horns should be banished from his kingdom. Goats, Bulls, Rams, Deer, and every living thing with horns had quickly to be off on pain of death. A Hare, seeing from his shadow how long his ears were, was in great fear lest they should be taken for horns. "Good-by, my friend," said he to the Cricket, who for many a long summer evening had chirped to him where he lay dozing; "I must be



*Much like goats' horns.*

off from here. My ears are too much like horns to allow me to be comfortable.” “Horns!” exclaimed the Cricket. “Do you take me for a fool? You no more have horns than I have.” “Say what you please,” replied the Hare, “were my ears only half as long as they are, they would be quite long enough for any one to lay hold of who wished to make them out to be horns.”

*“Your enemies will use any excuse to attack you.”*





## The Mastiff and the Goose



A GOOSE once upon a time fed its young by a pondside, and a Goose in such circumstances is always extremely proud and excessively punctilioius. If any other animal, though without the least design of offense, happened to pass that way, the Goose immediately flew at it. The pond, she said was hers, and she would maintain her right to it, and support her honor, while she had a bill to hiss or a wing to flutter. In this manner she drove away ducks, pigs, chickens, nay, even the insidious cat was seen to scamper. A longing Mastiff, however, happened to pass by, and thought it no harm if he should lap a little

of the water, as he was thirsty. The guardian Goose flew at him like a Fury, pecked at him with her beak, and slapped him with her feathers. The Mastiff grew angry, and had twenty times a mind to give her a sly snap; but suppressed his indignation, because his master was nigh. "A plague take thee," cried he, "for a fool!"

So saying, he went forward to the pond, quenched his thirst in spite of the Goose, and followed his master.

*"Sure, those who have neither strength nor weapons to fight at least should be civil."*



## The Sorceress



**N**IIGHT and silence had now given repose to the whole world, when an ill-natured Sorceress, in order to exercise her fearful arts, entered into a gloomy wood, which trembled at her approach. The scene of her horrid incantations was within the circumference of a large circle, in the center of which an altar was raised, where the hallowed vervain blazed in triangular flames, while the mischievous Hag pronounced the dreadful words which bound all the powers of evil in obedience to

her charms. She blows a raging pestilence from her lips into the neighboring folds, and the innocent cattle die to afford a fit sacrifice to the infernal deities. The moon, by powerful spells drawn down from her orb, enters the wood; legions of spirits from Pluto's realms appear before the altar and demand her pleasure. "Tell me," said she, "where shall I find what I have lost, my favorite little dog?" "How!" cried they all, enraged; "impertinent Beldame! Must the order of nature be inverted and the repose of every creature disturbed for the sake of thy little dog?"

*"Use your given powers with judgment."*



*Spirits from Pluto's realms appear.*

## The Lion, the Ass, and the Fox

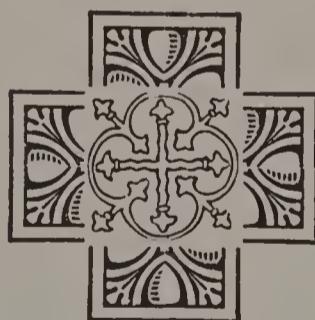
\*\*\*\*\*HE Lion, the Ass, and the Fox went  
\*\*\*T\*\*\* hunting together, and it was agreed that  
\*\*\*\*\* whatever was taken should be shared  
\*\*\*\*\* between them. They caught a large, fat Stag,  
which the Lion ordered the Ass to divide. The  
Ass took a deal of pains to divide the Stag into  
three pieces, which should be as nearly equal  
as possible. The Lion, enraged with him for  
what he considered a want of proper respect  
to his quality, flew upon him and tore him to  
pieces. He then called on the Fox to divide. The  
Fox, nibbling off a small portion for himself, left  
the rest for the Lion's share. The Lion, highly



*They caught a large, fat Stag.*

pleased by this mark of respect, asked the Fox where he had learned such politeness and good-breeding. "To tell the truth, Sire," replied the Fox, "I was taught it by the Ass who lies dead there."

*"You may share the labors of the great, but you will  
not share the spoil."*



## The Fly and the Draught-Mule



FLY sat on the axle-tree of a chariot, and addressing the Draught-mule said: "How slow you are! Why do you not go faster? See if I do not prick your neck with my sting." The Draught-mule replied: "I do not heed your threats; I only care for him who sits above you, and who quickens my pace with his whip, or holds me back with the reins. Away, therefore, with your insolence, for I know well when to go fast, and when to go slow."

*"Everyone should know his Master."*

## The Satyr and the Traveler



**A**SATYR, ranging in the forest in winter, came across a Traveler half starved with the cold. He took pity on him and invited him to go to his cave. On their way the Man kept blowing upon his fingers. "Why do you do that?" said the Satyr, who had seen little of the world. "To warm my hands; they are nearly frozen," replied the Man. Arrived at the cave, the Satyr poured out a mess of smoking pottage and laid it before the Traveler, who at once commenced blowing at it with all his might. "What, blowing again!" cried the Satyr. "Is



*Who at once commenced blowing at it.*

it not hot enough?" "Yes, faith," answered the Man, "it is hot enough in all conscience, and that is just the reason why I blow it." "Be off with you!" said the Satyr, in alarm; "I will have no part with a man who can blow hot and cold from the same mouth."

*"The man who talks for both sides is not to be trusted."*

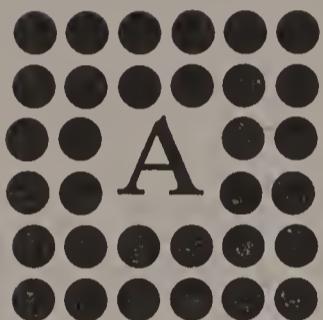


## The Eagle and the Crow

**A**CROW watched an Eagle swoop with a majestic air from a neighboring cliff upon a flock of Sheep and carry away a Lamb in his talons. The whole thing looked so graceful and so easy withal that the Crow at once proceeded to imitate it, and, pouncing upon the back of the largest and fattest Ram he could see, he tried to make off with it. He found not only that he could not move the Ram, but that his claws got so entangled in the animal's fleece that he could not get away himself. He therefore became an easy prey to the Shepherd, who, coming up at the time, caught him, cut his wings, and gave him to his children for a plaything.

*"Do not let your vanity make you overestimate your powers."*

## The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf



MISCHIEVOUS Lad, who was sent to mind some Sheep, used, in jest, to cry “Wolf! Wolf!” When the people at work in the neighbouring fields came running to the spot, he would laugh at them for their pains. One day the Wolf came in reality, and the Boy, this time, called “Wolf! Wolf!” in earnest; but the Men, having been so often deceived, disregarded his cries, and the Sheep were left at the mercy of the Wolf.

*“A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.”*



*And the Sheep were left at the mercy of the Wolf.*

## The Wolf and the Crane

**A** WOLF had been gorging on an animal he had killed, when suddenly a small bone in the meat stuck in his throat and he could not swallow it. He soon felt a terrible pain in his throat, and ran up and down groaning and groaning and seeking for something to relieve the pain. He tried to induce every one he met to remove the bone. "I would give anything," said he, "if you would take it out." At last the Crane agreed to try, and told the Wolf to lie on his side and open his jaws as wide as he could. Then the Crane put its long neck down the Wolf's throat, and with its beak



*With its beak loosened the bone.*



*The Wolf grinned.*

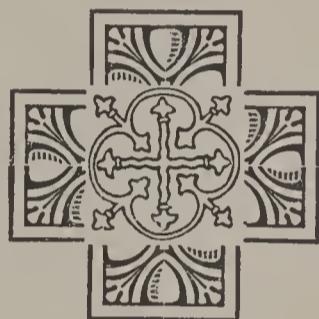
loosened the bone, till at last it got it out.

“Will you kindly give me the reward you promised?” said the Crane.

The Wolf grinned and showed his teeth, and said: “Be content. You have put your head inside a Wolf’s mouth and taken it out again in safety; that ought to be reward enough for you.”

*“Gratitude and greed go not together.”*

## The Gnat and the Lion



A GNAT once went up to a Lion and said, "I am not in the least afraid of you; I don't even allow that you are a match for me in strength. What does your strength amount to after all? That you scratch with your claws and bite with your teeth—just

like a woman in a temper—and nothing more. But I'm stronger than you. If you don't believe it, let us fight and see." So saying, the Gnat sounded his horn, and darted in and bit the Lion on the nose. When the Lion felt the sting, in his haste to crush him he scratched his nose badly, and made it bleed, but failed altogether to hurt the Gnat, which buzzed off in triumph, elated by its victory. Presently, however, it got entangled in a spider's web, and was caught and eaten by the spider, thus falling a prey to an insignificant insect after having triumphed over the King of the Beasts.

*"The least of our enemies is of the most to be feared."*

*FINIS*



*Darted in and bit the Lion on the nose.*



THE  
WONDERFUL TREE  
AND  
GOLDEN DAY STORIES  
BY

CAROLYN SHERWIN BAILEY  
AUTHOR OF "STORIES FROM AN INDIAN CAVE"  
"LINCOLN TIME STORIES" "SURPRISE STORIES" ETC.



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